

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.



Agriculture is the most healthful, the most useful, and the most noble employment of Man.--Washington.

Vol. I.

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A. B. ALLEN, and R. L. ALLEN, Editors.

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Advertisements will be inserted at \$1, if not exceeding twelve lines, and in the same proportion if exceeding that number.

CORN COBS FOR CATTLE.

We cannot too earnestly call the attention of our readers, in those portions of the Union where labor is cheap and feed dear, and mills are found for the purpose, to the importance of grinding or crushing their corn cobs for horses, cattle, and sheep, and when it can be, cooked for swine also. Sufficient experiments have been made to establish the great benefits of them when so used in proportion to their weight. As we before suggested, to soak the cob with the corn unshelled, in water with the addition of a little salt, will prepare them for one mode of feeding; but some will prefer grinding or crushing, which is indispensable for sheep. Boiling or fermenting them after crushing, adds to their value.

REMEDY FOR THE HESSIAN FLY.

To the many invaluable advantages of the roller, may be added the perfect security it

affords to the wheat crop from the ravages of the fly. Whenever this insect is discovered, whether in the spring or fall, the roller should be applied, and the effect of one or more applications will be entirely to destroy this troublesome enemy.

CREDIT QUOTATIONS.

We quoted from Tull, under the head of "Selections," in 5th No. of our paper, on the subject of "Pulverising the soil." We find this same article in a Dec. No. of the N. E. Farmer, quoted from the So. Agriculturist, which paper credits it to the Southern Planter as original. We protest against thus robbing the dead of its rightful dues.

CULTIVATION OF HEMP.--(CONCLUDED.)

Cutting.--No after cultivation is necessary, and as soon as the blossoms turn a little yellow, and begin to drop their leaves, which usually happens 3 to 3½ months after sowing, it is time to cut the hemp; if it stands, however, a week or ten days longer than this, no other detriment will ensue except that it will not rot so evenly, and becomes more laborious to break. Cutting is now almost universally practiced in preference to pulling. Not quite so much lint is saved by the first as by the last process, but on the other hand the labor is pleasanter, and all subsequent operations, such as spreading out, stacking and rotting, are made easier. The lint also is of a better color and finer fibre; and the roots and stubble left in the

ground and plowed under, tend to lighten the soil, and as they decompose, become an equivalent to a light dressing of manure.

If the hemp is not above seven feet high, it can be cut with cradle-scythes, similar to those used for wheat, (only larger and stronger,) at the rate of an acre per day; but if above this height, hooks must be used full three inches wide, of a corresponding thickness, and about two and a half feet long, something in the shape of a brush scythe or sickle, attached to the end of a long and nearly straight snath, and with these, half an acre is considered a good day's work.

Just before being fully ripe for cutting, as we before remarked, the hemp presents one of the most splendid sights in nature; and is perhaps as rich and magnificent in appearance as the sugar cane full grown, or Indian corn in tassel. The figure below is a good representation.

THE HEMP PLANT.—(FIG. 26.)



Drying and Securing.—As fast as cut, spread the hemp on the ground where it was grown, taking care to keep the butts even, when if the weather be dry and warm, it will be cured in three days. As soon as sufficiently dried, commence binding into convenient sheaves, and if destined for water rotting, it ought to be transported to dry

ground convenient to the pools, and then secured in round stacks, carefully thatched on the top to keep out the rain; but if designed for dew rotting, it should be secured in the same field where grown in large ricks. The reason why these are to be preferred is, that less of the hemp in them is exposed to the weather, and of course the more and better the lint when it comes to be rotted and broken out.

Ricking.—To make a good rick is an important process, and for the whole manner we are indebted to an inspection of those on the plantation of Judge Beatty, and his remarks to us upon them, which we noted down at the time, and in addition to this, we also quote occasionally from his Prize Essay.

The ricks should be 30 to 40 feet long, and 15 to 20 feet wide, the best foundation for which is large rails or logs laid down for the bottom course, six feet from each other, then lay across these, rails or poles one foot apart. Now as the hemp is bound in sheaves, let it be thrown into two rows, with sufficient space for a wagon to pass between. "While the process of taking up and binding is going on, a wagon and three hands, two to pitch and one to load, is engaged in hauling the hemp to the rick, and stacking it. The rick should be in a central part so as to require the hemp to be removed as short a distance as possible. Thus the process of taking up, binding, hauling, and ricking, all progress together. In this way five hands will put up a stought rick in two days and cover it. By having two wagons and ten hands, it may be accomplished in one day. It is proper to remark, that for making the roof of the rick, it is necessary to have *long* hemp, from which the leaves should be beat off. *In this state only will hemp make a secure roof.*"

In laying down the hemp begin with the top ends of the bundles inside, and if they do not fill up fast enough to keep the inside of the rick level, add as occasion may require whole bundles. Give it a rounded elliptical form at each end, and as it rises it must be widened so as to make the top courses shelter the bottom ones, and after getting up about twelve feet high, then commence for the roof, by laying the bundles crosswise, within a foot of the edges of the rick, building the top up roof-shaped, of a slope at an angle of about forty-five degrees. This finished, for the covering of the roof lay up the bundles at right angles to its length, the butt ends down, and the first course resting on the rim of the rick as left all round, one foot

in width Lap the bundles in covering the roof in courses, precisely as if shingling a house. The first shingling thus finished, commence the second by reversing the bundles, placing the top ends down, and then go on lapping them as before. The third course of shingling begin with the butt ends down again, letting the first course hang at least one foot below the edge of the roof, as eaves to shed off the rain well from the body of the stack. Unbind the bundles, and lay the covering at least one foot thick with the loose hemp, lapping well shingle fashion as before, and for a weather board, let the top course come up above the peak of the roof about three feet, and be then bent over it, towards that point of the compass from which the winds blow least. If the work has been faithfully performed, the rick may be considered as finished, and weather proof, and it requires no binding with poles or anything else.

Judge Beatty is opposed to leaving the hemp standing in the field in shocks, and adds emphatically: "I am satisfied from actual experiment, (having tried all these different methods,) that the best way of managing hemp after it is cut and cured, is to bind and rick it as herein before described, without beating the leaves off except for the cover."

We will add, that the rick should be made when the weather is settled and certain, for if rain falls upon it during the process, it will materially injure the hemp. There ought always to be a sufficient number of hands in the field to gather, bind the shocks, and finish the ricking in a single day.

"If the hemp be well cured, and ricked when perfectly dry, many of the leaves will shatter off in the process of ricking. Most of those remaining on the hemp will shake off when it is hauled out, and spread [for rotting]. It is an advantage to have the leaves pretty well separated from the stalks before, or at the time of spreading out to rot. But this object will be sufficiently attained by the handling of the hemp, in the different processes of binding, ricking, hauling out, and spreading.

"There is a difference of opinion also, as to the best ground upon which to spread hemp. Some choose meadow ground in preference to any other place. I formerly pursued that practice, but have abandoned it from a perfect conviction, that the ground upon which hemp grows is the most suitable place to spread it for rotting.

1. "This saves much time in ricking, as the ricks may always be on the ground on which the hemp grew, and as nearly central

as may be to that part of the hemp which is to be put in the rick.

2. "All the manure arising from the leaves, half-formed seed, &c., will be left on the ground.

3. "The hemp rots or is watered quicker, and more regularly than it does on grass.

4. "If spread on hemp ground, you are sure to guard against stock running there, and the ground is consequently kept in good condition for another crop. Besides, the ground is benefited by being covered with the hemp while rotting.

5. "If spread on meadow ground, much of the grass will be injured by burning the hemp shives, and if the hemp is not sufficiently watered before the grass springs up among it, it will not obtain a good rot, and may be seriously injured.

Time of Dew Rotting.—Judge Beatty considers that the best time for spreading hemp for dew rotting, is in the month of December. "It then receives what is called a winter rot, and makes the lint of the hemp a light color, and its quality better than if spread out early. But where a farmer has a large crop, it is desirable to have a part of his hemp ready to take up late in December, so that he may commence breaking in January. To accomplish this object, a part of his crop may be spread about the middle of October. It would not be prudent to spread earlier, as hemp will not obtain a good rot if spread out when the weather is warm."

When properly Rotted.—"The experienced hemp-grower is at no loss to tell when hemp is sufficiently watered. A trial of a portion of it on the break will be the best test for those who have not had much experience. When sufficiently watered, the stalks of the hemp lose that hard, *sticky* appearance or feel, which they retain till the process is completed. The lint also begins to separate from the stalk, and the fibres will show themselves somewhat like the strings of a fiddle-bow attached to the stalk at two distant points, and separate in the middle. This is a sure indication that the hemp has a good rot."

Shocking after breaking and Rotting.—"When hemp is fit to be taken up, it should be immediately put in shocks, without binding, of suitable size. If it is dry, the shocks should be immediately tied with a hemp-band, by drawing the tops as closely together as possible, in order to prevent the rain from wetting the inside. If carefully put up and tied, they will turn rain completely. Each shock should be large enough to produce from fifty to sixty pounds of lint. If the

hemp should be considerably damp, when taken up, the shocks should be left untied at the tops until they have time to dry. If shocks are not well put up, they are liable to blow down by a strong wind. To guard against this, it is desirable, when commencing a shock, to tie a band around the first armful or two that may be set up, and then raise up the parcel so tied, and beat it well against the ground so as to make it stand firmly, in a perpendicular direction. The balance of the shock should now be set regularly around the part as herein directed. If hemp be carefully shocked, it will receive little or no injury till the weather becomes warm. In the mean time it should be broke out as rapidly as possible. If the operation be completed by the middle of April, no material loss will be sustained. If delayed to a later period, more or less loss of lint will be the consequence. Cool, frosty weather is much the best for hemp-breaking. In that state of the weather, if the hemp is good, first-rate hands on the common hemp-break, will clean two hundred pounds per day upon an average. Two of my best hands, during the past season, for every day they broke, favorable and unfavorable, averaged one hundred and eighty-six pounds. Two others, who are young men, and not full hands, averaged one hundred and forty-four pounds. The ordinary task for hands is one hundred pounds. Overwork is paid for at the usual price of breaking."

Hemp-break.—The hand hemp-break is made precisely like that for flax, only much larger; the under slats on the hinder end are 16 to 18 inches apart, at the fore-end they approach within 3 inches of each other. The slats in the upper jaw are so placed as to break joints into the lower one, as it is brought down on to the hemp. It is a machine so common, however, that we deem further description unnecessary. After breaking out the hemp, it is twisted into bunches, and sent to the press-house to be baled, and is then transported to market.

Water Rotting.—Of this process we gave a full description in October No. of this periodical. Some recent improvements, it is said, have been made in water rotting, and a new discovery of rotting by steam, which we are informed, accomplishes the process in a few hours. We are somewhat doubtful on this point, and have instituted inquiries regarding it, which, if of any practical utility, we shall immediately make them known.

We desire greatly to see our country an exporter rather than importer of this valua-

ble product, and with her boundless regions of fertile soil she may be. The value of hemp and hempen manufactures of all kinds, imported into this country for the five years ending 30th Sept., 1841, was about \$10,000,000 value here. It would be a pretty item of National wealth to reverse the tables, and make our exports of the same articles equally large.

ANTHRACITE COAL ASHES.

We are glad to find a satisfactory answer to our inquiry as to the effects of an application of anthracite coal ashes. We have not for many years been engaged in farming occupations, in the region of the consumption of anthracite coal, and of course have not had an opportunity of testing the value of the ashes from personal observation, and having noticed they were universally wasted in our city, we made many inquiries as to experiments with them, and of some sustaining a high reputation as agriculturists, and the reply was universally, their effects were not known, but they are believed to be prejudicial. Entertaining an opinion just the reverse, we made a public call for information, and we give below the substance of a reply from the editor of the Am. Farmer.

"In the spring of 1836, we had a small piece of ground bordering on the main road, which was separated from the field by a run. It contained 1 acre and 10 perches of as hard, elastic, ungainly clay as Christian man ever undertook to improve. Its situation was a western exposure, rising gently to the east, so as to form a kind of inclined plane. The eastern part of it was a tenacious white clay, bordering on fuller's earth; the rest a red clay, equally hard, and the whole worn out by that improvident system of culture, which looks to taking all out and putting nothing in. As it was located on the public road, we were not a little ambitious to get it in good tilth, so as to relieve us from so burning an eye-sore. From its indurated condition we felt conscious that before we could bring it to a condition of creditable fertility, it would be necessary to change the texture of the soil, in order to give play to the action of the atmosphere. Had a sand bank been accessible to us, we should at once have covered it with sand, at the rate of a hundred cart-loads to the acre, so as to break down its tenacity, and admit the air. But having no such resource at hand, we determined on applying what we believed would be a good substitute, and accordingly procured gas house cinders, which we intended applying at the rate of twenty double-horse cart loads to the acre. As the westernmost part of the ground lay convenient to the entrance, the cinders were spread thereon first, but as we could get but twenty loads, only one acre was furnished with them, so that the upper part of the piece, consisting of the white clay, and containing 10 perches, was left uncovered. After spreading these cinders, we put on and spread stable manure at the rate of twenty double-horse loads to the acre. The manure was plowed in as spread, the ground then rolled to break down the clods, harrowed twice lengthwise, and once crosswise, which brought it but to a tolerable state of pulverization. We then

sowed millet on the whole piece, at the rate of half a bushel of seed to the acre. It came up well, and on that part where the gas house cinders were spread, the crop of millet was as luxuriant as the heart of man could desire; but, to a line, where the cinders stopped, the plant was as thin as its growth was stunted and poor—scarcely worth cutting. This difference in product we ascribed to the utter impossibility of the roots of the plants deriving any benefit from the air, and but partial from the rain, as the baked condition of the clay almost precluded the operation of percolation, and the water stood in puddles on the surface, although this part of the ground was the most elevated. Our object being to get the piece in timothy, as soon as we cut the millet, we spread 20 bushels of anthracite coal ashes on the 10 upper perches described, plowed it in about four inches, rolled and harrowed, and left it in that way until it was time to prepare the whole for the timothy. We then had the whole plowed 7 inches deep, rolled, and harrowed until we had pulverized it as well as it was susceptible of being made so. On the upper 10 perches, we spread 20 bushels more of anthracite coal ashes, which we harrowed in well. We then sowed a peck and a half of timothy seed on the whole piece. It all took equally well, and yielded luxuriant cuttings of fine grass, there being no difference on the piece except that the part where the coal ashes had been applied, had a good carpet of white clover, whereas there was but little or none on the rest.

"Finding that its action as above described had answered our expectations, in the spring of 1837, we top-dressed an acre of clover with it. It grew on a piece of cold red clay, in bad tilth. The piece consisted of 2 acres. One half of the remainder of the piece was plastered, at the rate of a bushel to the acre. Where the anthracite coal ashes and plaster were sown, the clover was as fine as we ever saw, but on the remainder of the lot, it was poor enough in all conscience. We subsequently put this lot in spring wheat, turning in the clover sward the previous fall, late, and sowing the wheat early, the ensuing spring; the product was good on the whole, but better where it had been plastered and ashed, and much the best on the latter part. The subsequent year we put the whole piece in Mercer potatoes, manuring all alike and well, in the furrows; the product was good, but decidedly best where the ashes had been applied.

"In the spring of 1838, we put in 3 acres of corn, in a lot, manuring the whole, at the rate of 20 double horse cart loads of stable and barn-yard manure to the acre. On one acre we spread 100 bushels of leached ashes, on another we spread 100 bushels of anthracite coal ashes, and on the third, nothing. The soil was a sand, inclining to loam, resting upon a clay bottom. The corn proved a fair yield, but much more productive on the ashed part, which yielded at least one-fourth more. It grew faster from the start, looked greener and healthier, and made more and larger ears.

"In the spring of 1839, we planted a small bed of the famed 'Tree Corn' in our garden. The plot on which it grew lay low, and was too wet in rainy seasons for corn, but as it was the only spot which we could appropriate to it, we thought we would overcome its inadaptation by heavy manuring. We spread on 4 inches in depth of stable manure, had that trenched in 9 inches deep, then had 2 inches of cow-dung spread thereon and turned in 4 inches deep, raking the ground well after each spading. We then spread on 2 inches of street dirt, which we thoroughly raked in, so as to incorporate it with the soil. We then laid off our beds in furrows 3 feet apart, and dropped the corn 2 feet asunder in the rows. It came up well, but owing to a succession of cold rains, the plants turned yellow and

appeared evidently dying. Judging that it was owing to the cold, and that it would be necessary to impart heat to the soil, so as to counteract the effect of the cold, we applied half a pint of anthracite ashes to each hill, working it in with the prongs of a small garden hoe. The consequence was, that it acted like magic, changing the color of the plants in a few days, from a sickly hue to a dark healthful green. The plot of Tree corn yielded a tremendous crop, the which we, in chief, ascribed to the plentiful dose of manure which we gave it, but at the same time, we believed that the anthracite coal ashes rescued it, at the onset, from the fate of stunted corn, and performed its office in its subsequent growth.

"We used them in a compost of barn-yard and stable manure in 1839, at the rate of 100 bushels of ashes to 20 cart-loads of manure, with which we dressed an acre of sugar beets. The crop was a good one—the soil a rather moist clay loam, resting on hard till."

We shall be pleased to add further experiments of their utility, which we have no doubt can be furnished from our immediate neighborhood. These ashes make a large item in the waste of our city. They might be saved with the least possible trouble, by having a large box with a lid, in the centre of every block on the pavements by the gutter, in which every citizen should be compelled to put his ashes, instead of throwing them into the street, and these might be sold by the season or quantity to farmers who would gladly buy them at a round price.

CROPS FOR SOILING.

We have been repeatedly called upon by persons residing in this vicinity, who keep cows for the purpose of supplying the city with milk, and fat a few sheep and other animals for market, making inquiries as to the best system of pasture and soiling, as land is too dear in the neighborhood, and it takes too much of it laid down in common pasture, to keep their animals with much profit. As well as we are capable of giving advice, our method for soiling would be this:

When the land is suitable for rye, we would sow it early in September, so as to have it get a good start before winter. This would come forward a fortnight, if not three weeks earlier than any clover or grass, of which we have any experience. If the soil suits wheat better than rye, then we would sow wheat for this purpose. It comes forward quite as quick in the spring as rye, and is considered better green food; but after the cattle are withdrawn from it, the wheat does not grow and head as well as the rye, and it is consequently not so good a crop to harvest, or turn hogs on to when the grain has ripened.

After the rye and wheat fields had been pastured about three weeks in the spring, we

should have a pasture which had been stocked down the previous year, with orchard grass and clover to succeed them. By the time this began to grow short, say about the first of July, Indian corn sown broad-cast, would be ready for soiling, and this, by proper management may last till the grass has become well grown again in the fall, or till winter sets in. In order to effect this desirable object, different varieties of corn should be sown. We would first commence with the earliest Canada, taking the risk of frost, and sowing a single acre or so as soon as we could prepare the ground for it in the spring. Then at the earliest usual time of planting, we would sow different ripening varieties, from the earliest to the latest. We would repeat the Canada in one patch by itself; then in another patch sow the Dutton or some good summer variety; then a patch of the China tree; and finally the Baden. These two last varieties yield more fodder than any which we have cultivated; and though many object to them for grain, we think they will prove excellent varieties for soiling. As the above varieties ripen from three to six weeks apart, they may be all sown at about the same time, and then will be fit for cutting in regular succession. We should be careful to sow them in distinct patches and never together, as corn ought to be in tassel before cutting to feed to cattle, otherwise it will badly scour them, and prove injurious rather than beneficial food. It would be still better to reserve cutting till the ears were large enough for roasting; but in either event, and indeed during the whole process of pasturing and soiling, the stock ought to have salt always accessible, where they can eat as much as they please of it. A trifle of alum mixed with the salt is an excellent thing, and to have the troughs well covered with tar is very healthful, and indeed the best preventive of disease of any thing we ever tried.

Vetches are much used in England for early spring food, and our opinion is particularly asked about them. We tried them two years. They grew well and yielded an abundance of green food on a cold tenacious clay soil, but the seed would not ripen, and as we had to import this at a very high price, we gave them up; but we have no doubt they may be acclimated here, and if so, they will prove excellent food for soiling. Some of our friends are going to make the attempt of acclimation this year. But even what is called winter vetches, which are sowed in the fall and winter in England for their earliest green food, do not come forward so quick

as rye and wheat there; and rye pastures for early spring pasture, are getting more and more into vogue in Europe. The vetch is but a diminutive sort of pea; the American pea can therefore take its place in feeding to great advantage. It resists frosts well, and we have known it sown late in the fall, or during a mild winter, for an early crop in this climate. Its vegetation, however, under these circumstances, is not always certain. We have seen quite a valuable pea for this purpose growing in the western part of this state and Canada, called the Grass pea. The stalks and leaves are smaller much than the common field and garden varieties; but they grow close together, and we think would yield more feed per acre than any other variety; and although the grain is small also, still it usually gives a large number of bushels per acre. We have seen from 40 to 65 bushels taken from an acre repeatedly, on land of a moderate fertility, and without extra cultivation, and we have never heard any other objection to it where grown, except that the grain was too small, but this we consider rather a fanciful one than otherwise. If more herbage or grain is obtained with it than from the larger varieties, why should we not give it the preference in cultivation?

In preparing land in this vicinity for pasture and soiling, we recommend its being made as rich as possible; and in order to easily effect this, we again entreat our farmers to read attentively the valuable articles in our paper on city manures, by Mr. Partridge, as well as others which we have copiously selected and written previously. Many of them will bear a second and third perusal with profit.

If the land is made sufficiently rich with the proper materials, 3 tons of grass may be had from an acre, and its equivalent, or perhaps more, in rye and wheat; and with corn we may easily get 10 to 15 tons of the earlier varieties, and 20 to 35 tons of the later ones. We hope our friends will make some experiments on these crops the coming year, as the yield of corn per acre is involved in continued dispute. We do not think to cut a rod or two for the purpose of weighing is sufficient; we dislike *partial* experiments, when it is so easy to make a thorough one; a quarter of an acre is the least amount that should be tried, and a whole acre would be still better.

SUGAR BEET.

As much attention seems to be awarded to the cultivation of this truly valuable root, and

as we have had six years' experience in growing and feeding it to stock, we shall answer all inquiries upon the subject, by giving a full account of the best method of cultivation, storing, and feeding in the March No. of our paper.

LARGE CORN CROP OF MR. YOUNG, OF KY.

As some desire has been manifested by several of our correspondents, to know how Mr. Young produced so large a corn crop as 190 bushels to the acre, alluded to by Judge Beatty, in his letter published in the January No. of the American Agriculturist, we gratify their curiosity at once, by copying it from an exchange paper. We do not recollect at this moment where it first appeared, or we should give credit for the quotation.

The editor of the Dollar Farmer recommends not planting quite so early as the 25th of March, for fear of frosts and chilly mornings at this period, even as far south as Kentucky; but as there is equal danger to be apprehended from the excessive dry weather during July, in that latitude, he is of opinion that soaking the seed in a solution of saltpetre will bring the corn forward equally early and rapidly, although planted somewhat later.

It will be seen by reference to p. 43 of May No. of American Agriculturist, that we recommended soaking corn in a saltpetre solution, previous to planting. We have frequently tested the efficacy of saltpetre in our corn crops; and for a late experiment upon this matter, by Mr. Benedict, of Staten Island, we would refer to our August No., p. 159.

"My universal rule," says Mr. Young, "is to plow my corn land the fall preceding the spring when I plant; and as early in the spring as possible, I cross-plow as deep as circumstances will permit; as soon as this is done, I commence checking off—the first way with my large plows, and the second with my small ones, the checks 3 feet by 3, admitting of working the land both ways. And then I plant my corn from the 20th to the 25th of March—a rule to which I adhere with scrupulous exactness, planting from eight to twelve grains in each hill, covering the same from *four to six inches deep*, greatly preferring the latter depth. So soon as my corn is up of sufficient height, I start the large harrow directly over the rows, allowing a horse to walk each side; harrowing the way the corn was planted; and on land prepared as above and harrowed as directed, the hoeing part will be so completely performed by this process, that it will satisfy the most sceptical. Then allowing the corn thus harrowed, to remain a few days, I start my small plows with the bar next the corn; and so nicely will this be done, that when a row is thus plowed, so completely will the intermediate spaces, hills, &c. be lapped in by the loose earth, occasioned by this system of close plowing, as to render any other work useless for a time. I thin to four stalks upon a hill, never having to transplant; the second

plowing being performed with the mould-board towards the rows of corn; and so rapid has been the growth of the corn between the first and second plowings, that this is performed with ease; and when in this stage, I consider my crop safe; my general rule being never to plow my corn more than four times, and harrow once. My practice is, to put a field in corn two successive years, then grass it and let it lie eight years—a rule from which I never deviate. Now I do not pretend that the labor bestowed upon a sod field to put it in a state of thorough cultivation, does not meet with a fair equivalent from one crop; but I presume no farmer will doubt when I say the second year's crop from sod land is better than the first, with no more than one-half the labor. The best system of farming is to produce the greatest amount of profit from the smallest amount of labor."

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE.

This truly noble and national society, has it in contemplation to open a READING ROOM at their Repository in the Park, where all the periodicals on Agriculture, Science, and Art, of any value, both in Europe and America, will be placed at all times accessible to the public. To citizens, the annual subscription for the privilege of frequenting this, will be fixed at a moderate sum; to strangers it will be FREE.

The room for this purpose will be constructed at the west end of the Repository, by laying a floor over the first story, reaching from gallery to gallery, which will afford a space of about 1,600 square feet. Contiguous to this will be the Library; and on the first floor as now, the Depository for agricultural and mechanical inventions, and any curiosity connected with them.

It is supposed that 400,000 strangers annually visit the city of New York, and among these are very many with whom the subject of Agriculture and the Arts, possess the most absorbing interest. We believe a Reading Room has never yet been established in the United States, for persons of this cast of mind; and many books and periodicals, absolutely necessary to illustrate their studies, are not within their reach, and the want of which at times, has been severely felt. The American Institute will now supply this great desideratum, and at the same time make itself more thoroughly known to the public. Some other things are under contemplation by this Institution, which, if it shall find itself able to accomplish, will tend greatly to increase its usefulness, and make it fully what its name imports—the National Society of America for Agriculture, the Arts, and Manufactures.

In order to render it more convenient for its southern members to attend, we have understood that it would be proposed to the Trustees, to appoint annual meetings hereafter to be holden early in the month of September, instead of October. We should think this an excellent change of time, and worthy of consideration.

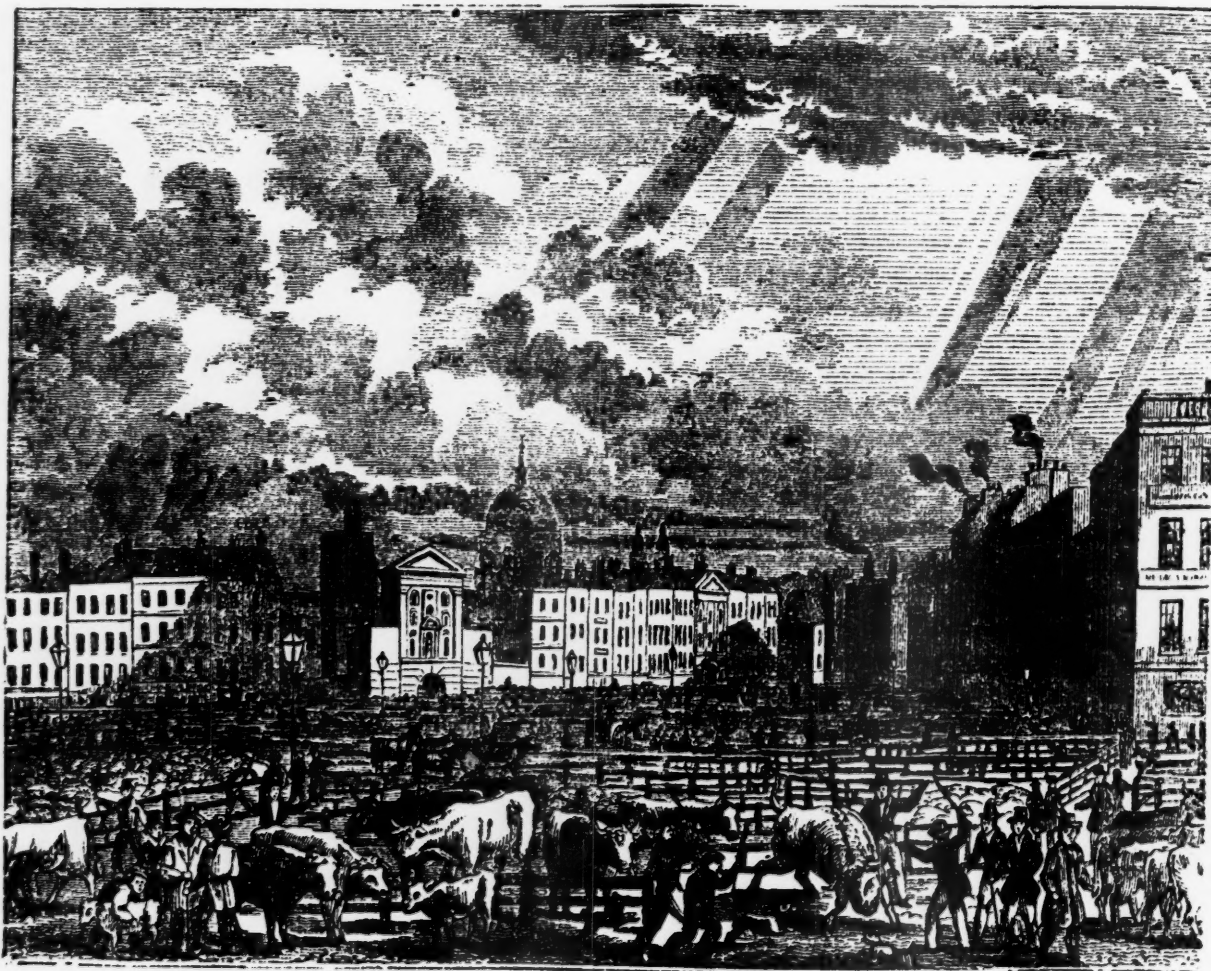
AGRICULTURAL CLUB.

It is proposed to form a club in this city, to meet weekly, for the discussion of all subjects connected with farming, horticulture, and stock breeding. Such clubs have become quite common in Europe, and have been the means of accomplishing great good. We see that a few have been formed in the United States, and more are in contemplation; and as many persons as there are to be found interested in agriculture in this city and its vicinity, it is due to them to establish a club without further delay, for the discussion of all matters relative to their interests and advancement in practical and scientific agriculture.

TOUR IN ENGLAND, No. 10.

Smithfield Market—animals there, and the breeds most suitable to raise in America for meat to supply the English market.—The largest, and perhaps the most interesting market for the stock breeder to visit in Great Britain, is that of Smithfield; which in days of yore, was really what its name purports, a large

field in the suburbs of the town, belonging to the person after whom it was named. But now the city has spread over and all around, and it has become the very heart of London. It is a sort of double oblong square, into which pour six streets, surrounded on all sides by lofty buildings, presenting something such a scene as the reader will find pictured below.



SMITHFIELD STOCK MARKET.—(FIG. 27.)

Smithfield is a cattle market on Mondays and Fridays; the rest of the week it is used for hay, straw, and other country products. Monday, however, is the great day, when there is a much larger show of animals than on Friday, and it is curious to see what a motley throng it then presents. Double rows of posts and strong bars morticed into them surround the open square on two sides, to which the cattle are tied, while all the rest of the space is occupied with pens for pigs, and thousands of sheep; there being a much greater consumption of mutton in England than pork. For the purpose of getting a fuller idea of the show, we usually made our

visits here early in the morning, when it was so crowded, that we frequently found it difficult to move about; and such a hubbub and confusion of sounds rose up there from the voices of men, the barking of shepherds' dogs, and bleating and lowing of herds, as to almost set the fresh visitor beside himself, and half addle his head.

That the reader may have some more definite idea of the number of animals brought here for sale on market days, we give from McCulloch's Dictionary, the actual consumption in London, for the year 1830, when it had a population of about a million and a half.

		Average weight.	No. of lbs. consumed.
Cattle,	159,907	656 lbs.	104,898,992
Sheep,	1,287,070	90 "	115,836,300
Pigs,	254,672	96 "	24,448,512
Calves,	22,500	144 "	3,240,000

Number of pounds of meat consumed, 248,423,804

The average price of meat here is about 6d per lb., which would make the value of what was sold in 1830, within a fraction of £6,210,600.

In the edition of McCulloch for 1842, he says, that the amount of dead carcasses brought into London since 1830, from the facilities of steam navigation and railroads, has greatly increased; yet notwithstanding this, he sets down the sales at Smithfield market, as amounting to 190,000 bullocks, 150,000 sheep, 25,000 calves, and 25,000 pigs. We apprehend that there is a typographical error in this last item, of a cypher left out, and that he wrote 250,000 pigs. The population of London has increased one-third since 1830, and numbers now full two millions; it would therefore be fair to suppose that the consumption of beef, mutton, veal, and pork had increased in the same ratio; the average price of which, per pound, is fully equal at the present time, to that of 1830, which would make their value the past year, consumed in this great city, £8,280,800, or nearly \$40,000,000; and all this is exclusive of salt meats, poultry, and fish, which would be another round item in the eating bill; and we fancy if all were counted, that John Bull would have to acknowledge to about 180 lbs. per annum, of fish and flesh consumed for each inhabitant of London; which is pretty fair feeding, as the world goes, and may well keep him in the portly condition which he so generally shows, in his land of fog and almost interminable rain.

The butchers here are a shrewd, intelligent set of men in their profession, and we noticed that they judged the stock more by handling than ours do at home. They are also more critical in considering the forms of animals, besides other niceties that we might be thought over refined, perhaps, if we entered upon their detail. They are a hearty looking race, and in moving about in breeches and white top boots, seemed generally to verify the old saying of "he that slays fat oxen should himself be fat." However, in this respect, the farmers and graziers who drove the beasts up for sale, were but little inferior in blooming health and condition to the butchers; and had the respective parties themselves been entered for a premium, and we called upon as judge, we hardly

know to which class we should have awarded the first prize.

The cattle which bring the highest prices, and make the tenderest and best marbled beef, are the Kyloes, or Scotch Highlanders, a small black animal of which there are two kinds; those with horns, and those without. The average weight of these animals is from 500 to 600 lbs. They are hardy, thrifty, and tolerable quick feeders, living upon bleak mountains where other beasts would starve, and we must confess, that they are quite favorite animals in our eyes.

The next in quality of meat of any particular original breed, are the Devons; and with them we include their cognates, the Sussex. Their average weight is from 700 to 1,000 lbs. To these succeed the Herefords and Devons, averaging from 1,200 to 1,600 lbs. Now come all sorts of breeds and crosses, and mongrels; just as we see them in our own markets, without any particularly distinctive qualities, that are not found in greater excellence in one or other of the above named animals. Between the Hereford and Durhams, there is a sharp rivalry; and it is with fat cattle from these superb breeds, that the prizes of the great annual national show at Smithfield, in December, are usually taken. The Herefords have lately been more often triumphant than the Durhams; but we suspect it is more for the reason, that the coarser Short Horns are generally made steers of; the finer ones, being too valuable for this purpose, are reserved as breeders, for we can avouch from our own personal knowledge, that the beef of a fine well-bred Durham, killed at 3 to 4 years old, is equal to that of the Kyloe, or anything else of the cattle kind which we have ever had the advantage of tasting.

The English fat their animals longer and better than we do, and in that respect they are apt to be superior to ours; but since they have begun to drive the beautiful Devon cattle of New England, and the grade Durhams, and Herefords of the west, to the Bulls' Head in New York, the animals, with the exception of not being as well fed, will make a fair comparison with those at Smithfield. We think that if some of our farmers in the vicinity of large towns, would adopt a system of high cultivation and soiling, and purchase up cattle as they are driven in from a distance, for re-fattening, as a class of people called graziers do in England, that they might make a good business of it, and become serviceable both to the stock-breeder and butcher, and be the means of furnishing our

markets with a superior quality of meat, to which, when the inhabitants became accustomed, they would purchase no other.

The sheep brought to Smithfield, are more generally the South Downs, and Leicesters, together with their various crosses. The South Down mutton is the best; being much leaner and more tender than that of the Long-woolled tribes, and it usually brings one penny more per pound in market.

The best breeds of swine brought up to London are from Berkshire, and these are usually sent in fresh killed. With live hogs, the market at Smithfield seemed to be nearly monopolized by a breed from Sussex, from the reason, we suppose, of the greater contiguity of this county to the market. We can't say much in favor of these animals. They have sharp backs, long noses, and large lop ears. Their color is alternate white and black, in large patches or broad belts around

the body; and they are certainly a profitless race, compared with any of the more improved breeds in Sussex, and indeed any other part of Great Britain.

Since the reduction of duties on meat in England, large quantities of beef, mutton, and pork can be exported there, provided the right kind of animals are bred, properly fattened, cured, and put up for the British market. But we regret to say, that a large portion of the American cattle, as now bred, are totally unfitted to cut up for barreling Mess Beef, which is the most profitable and desirable quality for us to export; and we here give the outlines in four different positions, of a good ox, in order to convince our farmers of the truth of so strong an assertion. We also accompany these with an engraving of an animal of another kind, not for the purpose of ridiculing it, but to show the marked difference between breeds.

FIG. 28.

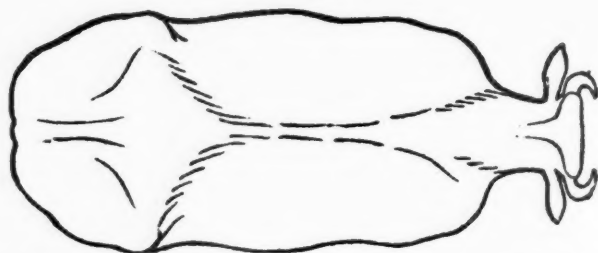


FIG. 29.



FIG. 30.



FIG. 31.

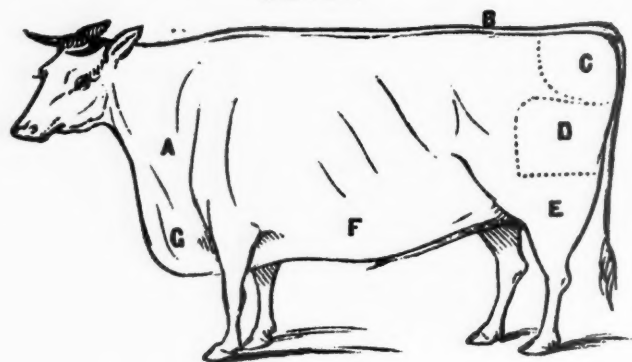
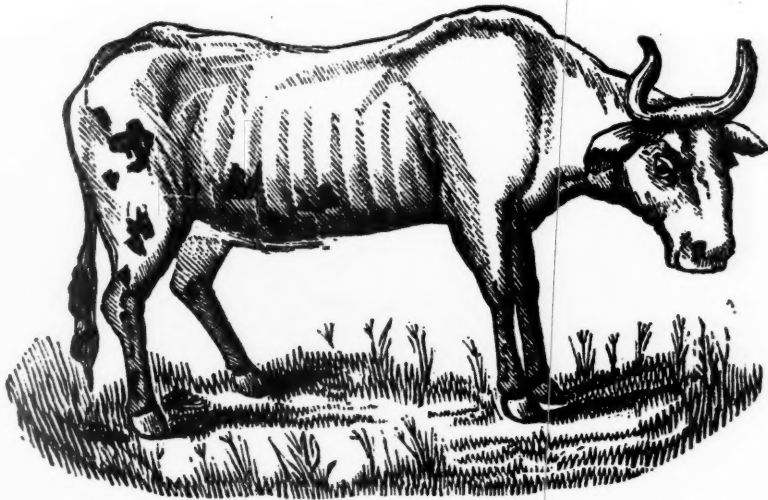


FIG. 32.



In England the most valuable pieces for Mess beef are taken from the brisket and round, *fig. 31 D & G*. Now in these two points it will be seen that this animal is especially good, and would probably cut twice or perhaps three times as much from these parts, as *fig. 32*, though it were ever so well fattened. The loin also at B, is broad and full, and here is where the steaks are cut, for which the butcher always gets an extra price. Then the plates at F, are round and thick, and this part is likewise valuable for salted beef. We now come to E, on the thigh, or gaskit, and A, on the point of the shoulder, and when the animal is as well bred as *fig. 31*, good pieces may be obtained for jerking, or dried beef; whereas, in *fig. 32*, little could be found on those points of any value, save the hide and bones.

We trust now, that we have fairly and faithfully pointed out the superiority of a good animal, and the necessity of paying attention to the breed and rearing, in order to successfully compete in so valuable a market, as the liberality of the British Government has recently laid open to us. We especially hope that our western farmers on the broad prairies will heed this matter—they can no longer object to purchasing improved stock, since the price has become so low as we understand it now is, in the United States. And they must recollect that they have but two ways of marketing their animals, barrelling them at home for a foreign market, or long, tedious, expensive driving, over the mountains to the eastern cities. We leave it to our western countrymen to say which is the best method for them to adopt.

Several houses at the west, have gone extensively into the business of packing pork for the English market, but we hear of none

who have embarked in that of packing beef; indeed the Board of Trade, of Montreal, in their circulars, say, that "Mess Beef is so difficult to be procured, that as an article of general export, it is not worth attention." This is a pretty confession to make, in a country where there are Durham bulls sufficient to produce a complete regeneration in the breed of cattle, in seven years, which would then turn out Mess Beef enough from their broad buttocks and briskets, to rejoice all the poor manufacturers in Great Britain, and make their hearts glad in the eating of it.

We do not give the particulars here as to the manner of packing beef and pork; sizes of the tierces, kits, and kegs, as American papers have latterly been teeming with all such directions; and besides, the process is so minute, that it requires experienced persons to go through with it, and as soon as the tariff was altered, enough of these immediately embarked for the United States, with a view of attending to this business among us. Two very essential things are requisite, however, especially in putting up beef. 1st. That the salt be pure; 2d, that a considerable quantity of sugar or molasses be put in the brine, so as to neutralise the action of the salt, and make the meat more palatable. This is highly necessary when packed for sea stores, as sugar is a *scurvy preventive*, whereas salt is a *scurvy producer*. It also expels the nutritious juices of the meat, and the more savory particles of the fat; and at the same time, so hardens the lean, as to make it difficult of mastication, and scarcely palatable. In packing for sea stores, it would be a good thing to take out all the bones, for they only increase the weight and bulk, without any benefit whatever, whereas, if left at

the packing house, they would at least make excellent manure.

Pork.—The English, hitherto, have been in the habit of eating an entirely different salted article from the Americans; the smaller kind of hogs being put up there, the side pork of which is well marbled, or intermixed with fat and lean. But we are not sure now, that we shall not soon revolutionize their tastes in this particular, and that our clear heavy mess, such as is packed for the Boston market, will not eventually take precedence there, when its superiority and goodness comes to be well tested. That for bacon, must of course have as much lean about its hams and sides as possible, consistent with juicy tenderness; but their manner of curing this kind of meat, is so entirely different from ours, owing to the difference of their climate, that we doubt whether it will be an object to prepare anything, with the view of exportation, except the choicest kind of hams; and these should be made as near the celebrated Westphalia as possible.

Mutton Hams and Shoulders.—A large trade in these, prepared and dried like venison, may be carried on with England, provided they abound with lean tender meat; and to produce this, we know nothing equal to the South Down sheep. Of these we shall give portraits hereafter. Their forms nearly resembles the outlines of Fig. 31, as a sheep can an ox; with the same well developed brisket, wide loins, round rumps, deep twist, and fine head and legs.

Sheep and Pig Tongues.—These, if very nicely prepared, and put up in kegs of 50 lbs. each, would command a ready sale in England, at about the same price as beef tongues. Now they are almost universally thrown away at our packing houses.

LEGISLATIVE DUTIES IN REGARD TO AGRICULTURE.

We consider the Agricultural press has been altogether too remiss, in its calls upon our Legislative bodies for aid in the promotion of agricultural advancements. We can hardly refer our M. C.'s to the letter of the Constitution, authorizing the establishment of an agricultural board for the United States, and therefore we suppose our strict constructionists, must abide their time till we can get sufficient strength to insert a clause as an amendment, which event is to be looked for, about the time of discovering the quadrature of the circle, or the transmutation of the baser metals into gold. Yet we could record, with a great deal of satisfaction, the appending such a department to the Patent Office, and with an equal amount of satisfaction, witness them advancing, *pari passu*, in the promotion of the entire interest of our citizens, instead of limiting it to a part as is now done. What benefits might not result to the community of this broad Union, from the

diligent selection of foreign seeds; their careful cultivation by scientific farmers; and the gratuitous and general distribution of such as on experiment were found to be adapted to increase our comfort and prosperity? The collection of the latest and best information and means of agricultural improvement, and its distribution among the citizens of the United States; the establishment of a great national school for the exclusive education of farmers; the employment of men of science to investigate and develop new principles on the subject, all these are objects which would seem to commend themselves to an assembly that once voted themselves "the most free and enlightened body in the world."

But we are dreaming. A utilitarian scheme fraught with so much substantial, *homely* benefit to their constituents, would probably be deemed altogether out of place in a body so much in advance, in this all-advancing age. We therefore forbear, and turn to our *State Legislatures*, who having the reserved powers resting with them, are at full liberty to consult the interests of a class which constitutes three fourths of their constituents, and is the foundation of all the wealth and prosperity of the nation. To your most honorable bodies, then, we come, in behalf of those high interests we advocate, from Maine to Louisiana, and respectfully prefer our petitions:

That you would each and every one of you, organize an intelligent and efficient *board of agriculture*, which shall convene at least while the Legislature is in session, and promote by every proper means the great objects they hold in trust.

That an intelligent board for a *geological survey* shall be commissioned to go through the remotest corners of every State, and discover the hidden treasures which the all-bounteous Creator has stored up for the comfort and prosperity of his people; that they may search out coal mines; uncover the beds of gypsum and lime; probe the deposits of peat, green sand, and marl; trace up those subterranean rills of salt to the fossil beds, more rich than the mines of Poland; discover and apply successfully to the production and augmentation of vegetable life, the stores of potash concealed and locked up in the hills of mica, on mountains of feldspar and basalt; develop and make known new sources of fertility among the minerals and other deposits; and finally, analyze and classify the grand divisions of local soils, and prescribe such means for their improvement as the unlettered farmer can understand and successfully apply.

That you should delegate an *agricultural commissioner*, if that duty be not specially designated for the board, to go through the length and breadth of the State, and examine the present condition of agriculture; its susceptibilities for improvement; the kinds of crops and animals raised; the profits of each variety; their comparative merits with each other and those of different States; what new ones can be introduced; and finally, to publish this information and spread it through every school district and family in the State.

That you would found an *agricultural college*, and establish *agricultural schools*, and incorporate and foster *experimental farms*, which shall imbue the minds of our youth with deep, and comprehensive, and enduring principles of agricultural science. To such a body of men, thus educated, could we confidently look for the diffusion of an accurate, a general and practical knowledge of soils, manures, plants, animals, and all the objects of rural investigation, that would annually return in profits to the citizens of the State, tenfold the total of all the expenses incurred in their education.

That you would bestow liberal bounties on the pro-

duction of such articles as can be made profitable in their cultivation, but which the uncertainty of success, and the difficulties of introducing new objects of attention to a class so proverbially cautious of innovation as our farmers, render of remote and uncertain and partial introduction. Such are *water-rotted hemp* in the western states; *wheat* in the northern; perhaps *indigo* and other products in the southern; and *reeled and manufactured silk* every where.

That you would stimulate the formation of *county agricultural societies* in every county of every State in this republic; that you would aid them by liberal donations of money, to be appropriated for premiums; and require from their officers such reports, in return, as will elicit important information, and be promotive of a general improvement in the subject.

That you would encourage and aid the formation of primary agricultural cabinets and libraries in every school district, that the minds of our youth shall first dawn upon those objects we wish to make most useful and enduring in their impressions. When these preliminary steps have been taken, and well organized, we will consider what next to bring to the attention of your honorable bodies.

But to be somewhat intrusive, let us turn to our own State, and see what she has done, and subtracting this from the programme laid down, we can readily see what remains to be accomplished. And surely we shall expect great things from the *Empire State*, with its 2,500,000 of free and intelligent citizens; the centre of commerce and manufactures, enterprise and activity, literature and science; and not far behind hand in the financial and political proficiency of the day. With one arm resting on the ocean, and the other grasping the father of rivers, as it now lies in majestic repose, in the deep and cerulean beds of Erie and Ontario, or rushes on to its destination through the Niagara and St. Lawrence; with an uninterrupted navigation stretching from our metropolis through the Hudson, the Northern Canal and Lake Champlain to the utmost borders of the State; with her magnificent Erie Canal, tapping this highway at the centre and passing off at right angles 365 miles to grasp the products of the mighty west; and other canals and rail roads almost too numerous to mention; with commercial and manufacturing, mineral and agricultural resources unequalled in their richness, variety and extent by any other portion of the globe; what has this Empire done for the great cause we plead? *Answer*. She has made a Geological survey, the results of which we shall have made public soon, which will be an honor to her and the age. For this we give her all due praise. What more? She has granted \$8,000 annually for five years, to be distributed among the county agricultural societies through the State, for premiums, *which is less than one-third of a cent each to every man, woman and child of the State*. Surely we cannot be overstepping the modesty of our position to ask our conscript fathers, to give us something over and beyond this small donation. They have also given us a bounty of 15 cents per pound on all silk cocoons raised in the State, and 50 cents per pound on all reeled silk. We ask no more for this item. But we do sincerely and most earnestly call on them to scan over carefully their obligations to the great agricultural community, and at once make up to them the arrears so long and so unjustly withheld from them. But the farmers have no right to complain so long as they send so many mere politicians to their legislative halls, whose only claims to their favor is to be found in their loud mouthed professions. If they will delegate to these what one of their own sound-headed body would much more effectually accomplish, they must be con-

tent to see their interests neglected, and other affairs not one-tenth part of their importance or utility, take precedence over agriculture.

DECEMBER NOTES FROM BUFFALO TO NEW YORK.

Mr. Prentice's Short Horns.—We left Auburn towards night amidst a violent snow storm, and as we got into the cars and commenced our route, we could not but console ourselves under the circumstances of the journey, and contrast them with what they would have been, had we passed here three years ago. Then we should have been obliged to have toiled along in the deep snow, in a sleigh coach, at the rate of 2½ or 3 miles an hour, half froze to death; now we were whirled off at seven times this rate of speed, and how comfortable we found it! An elegant roomy car, in which we could repose at full length if we chose; with soft cushioned seats, and cushioned backs, and cushioned sides, and the air within delightfully tempered by heated pipes. We never had much of a fancy for sleigh-riding. Jack Frost nips rather too sharply to suit our taste, especially since our cheeks have been fanned in the soft air of the luxuriant winters of the sunny south. So we gazed through the windows triumphantly at Master Jack's doings without, snapped our fingers in his face, and congratulating ourselves upon the warmth and comfort of our traveling quarters, abandoned ourselves to the enjoyment of the night; and with a carpet-bag for a pillow, and a wide thick Macintosh for a blanket, at once forgot the cares of the world, and were soon lost in forgetfulness, in that philosophic, undiscoverable country—the *land of Nod*.

How we got on in the spirit of our dream, we cannot say; but certain it is, in due time we found ourselves at Albany, with a heavy silver tea-pot in our capacious pocket, a Short Horn prize, won by, and belonging to Col. Sherwood, (for no editor need ever dream of possessing such a treasure, unless by some lucky wind-fall it should happen to come to him by way of dowry with his *better half*;) which we were bound to deliver for a model for some other matters, to the Treasurer of the State Agricultural Society, Mr. Prentice. But we did not find him at his Fur warehouse, though all know that the weather was cold enough at that time to ensure heavy sales; so we posted away for his fine farm at Mount Hope, 2 miles below, where sure enough *he was*, and right glad were we to see him, and not to be invidious, almost as much rejoiced to see his cattle too. For there was Fairfax standing out in all his noble proportions before us, with his Macintosh on as well as ourselves; but gentle reader, no caoutchouc about it, mind you; on the contrary, it was of the softest silky hair, and as pure and white in color, as the new fallen snow around him. We wish we had him here in a true picture to talk for himself, but we have not, and therefore we must tell the public a little about him ourselves. He was imported by his spirited owner some three years since, in his dam Splendor, and was got by Sir Thomas Fairfax, who took the highest prize in Class I, at the late annual meeting of the English Royal Agricultural Society, at Bristol; besides prizes at different times at several other agricultural shows in England, and was never beaten.

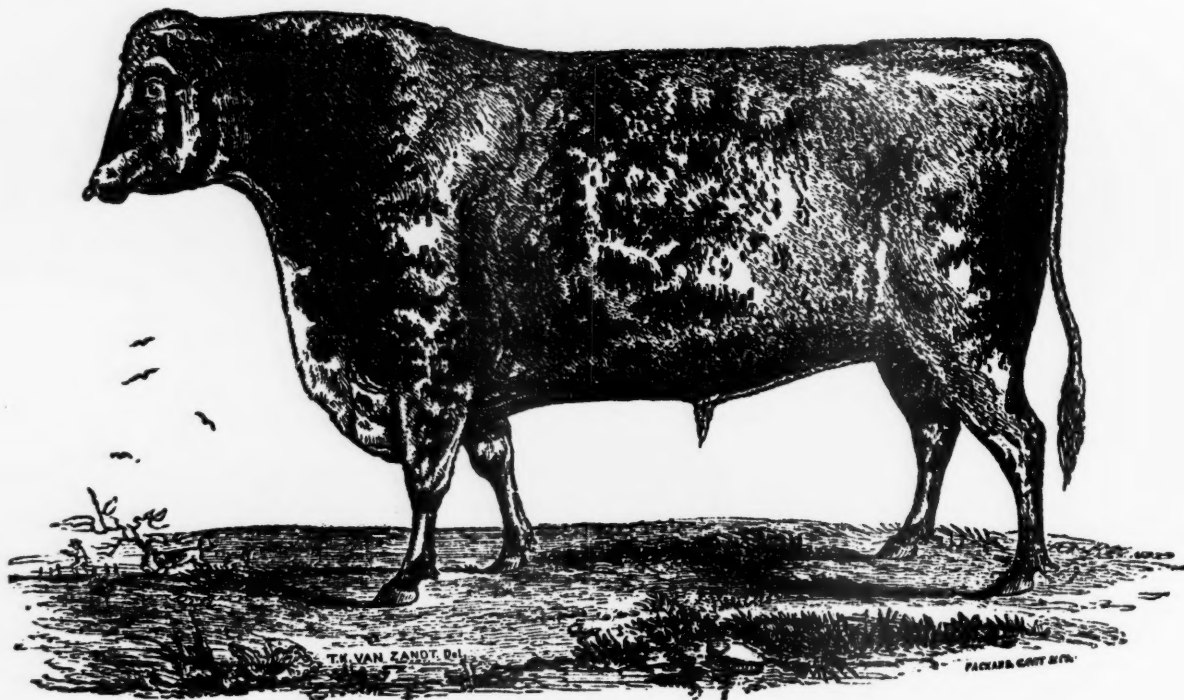
Mr. Prentice's Fairfax was the first in his class of 2 year olds, at the Annual Show of the New York State Agricultural Society, for 1842, and also at that of the American Institute, in this city, which is no small honor, considering his numerous competitors. He was two years old only last May, and has a good deep brisket, loin, and quarters, with a round barrel, and han-

dles well. These are the essential points in an animal; and as for the minor ones, we can tell better about them hereafter when his frame becomes fully developed. We saw two 6 months calves of his get, which resemble him exactly in color and much in shape, which is giving them sufficient praise. This blood is highly appreciated in England, for we see by a late Short Horn sale at West Rasen, that Lord Adolphus Fairfax, half brother to Mr. Prentice's F., sold for 255 guineas, (\$1,200,) and not \$275 as our printer's imp, by

a Satanic twist of the types, made us say page 285 of our Dec. No., which we beg leave here emphatically, to straighten out and correct. At the same time, the cow Nectarine, by Norfolk, Grand Sire of Fairfax, although past seven years old, sold for 150 guineas, (\$750,) while the average of Mr. Smith's stock of other blood, brought less than 33*l*. per head.

Then comes Nero; we beg pardon, here he is, or rather as he was, in his 3 year old form, for he is four past now.

SHORT HORN BULL, NERO.—(FIG. 33.)



The Property of E. P. Prentice, Esq., Mount Hope, N. Y.

As we looked at him we found his added year had given him a greater stretch of horn, and developed other points, both physical, and we presume mental; for why should not a bull bred from the aristocracy (barn-yard we mean,) of Europe and America, have mental faculties, we should be very glad to know? Yet be that as it may, there he stands, and was placed first, in Class I., of bulls, at the late annual meeting at Albany, of the New York State Agricultural Society. Nero has a cross of the Patroon stock in him we believe, some account of which was given by our correspondent, Mr. Bement, in the April No. of this paper. He is a fine animal and of medium size.

An account of Mr. Prentice's cows, of which several are superior milkers, will be given in our next.

ORCHARD GRASS.

When we stated on page 307 of the January No. of our paper, that the price of Orchard grass was usually \$4 to \$5 per bushel, we had reference entirely to the western part of this State, where we had farmed and purchased it. We understand the usual price in this city, has only ranged from \$2 50 to \$3 00.

In consequence of its having fallen some in market, Mr. White has authorised us to sell now at \$2 per bushel.

To stock land down effectually, it requires two bushels of well cleaned seed mixed with 12 lbs. of clover per acre. Orchard grass seed will weigh about 18 lbs. per bushel.

SHEEP FARM FOR SALE.

We call attention to the splendid Sheep Farm, in Illinois, advertised by Messrs. Murray & Co., of Buffalo, as a promising investment to any enterprising person, with some means, disposed to emigrate to the west. The only motive which induces the owner of this fine property to dispose of it is, that residing so great a distance from the premises, makes it quite impossible to give that personal attention to the flocks and farm, which is desirable.

WORMWOOD SEED OIL FOR BOTS.

The Southern planter recommends the above as the most effectual cure. It was used at the rate of one table-spoonful, in a gill and a half of spirits of Turpentine, diluted to a quart with whisky and water.

We should think that the wormwood seed oil with a slight increase or decrease of the dose, according to circumstances, would be equally efficacious diluted simply with water or milk.

STACKING GRAIN.

In reply to Mr. Robinson's letter, page 338 of this paper, requesting to know the

manner of stacking grain in England, we give the engravings below, which fully illustrate the whole process.

FIG. 34.

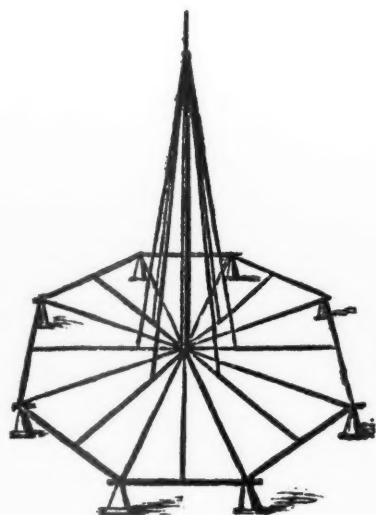


FIG. 35.

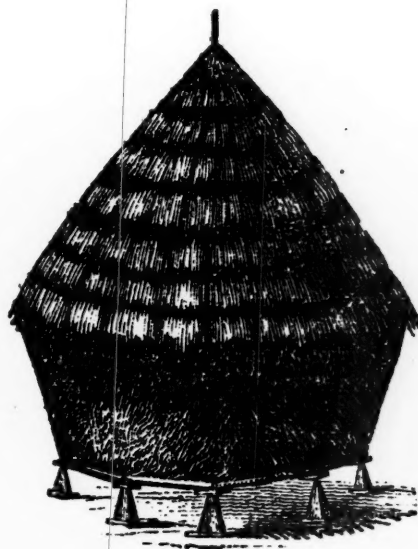


Fig. 33, is the frame of the stack, and is thus formed. Eight flat stones, about 2 feet square, are laid down where you wish to place the stack, equidistant, so that drawing a line from one to the other, will form an octagon of the required diameter of the stack. On each of these, a pyramidal stone block 2 feet at its base, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, or more, if thought proper, and 1 foot square at the top, is set in an upright position. On the top of each of these pyramids, a flat stone is placed about 2 feet square; and on these rest the frame of the stack, which it will be seen at a glance, a rat cannot reach; for it is so high he cannot jump from the ground on to it, nor can he climb up the stone pyramids, and if he could, he would not then be able to get over the caps.

These stands are sometimes made of brick-work, 2 feet or 18 inches square, and carried straight up, making regular pillars, as wide at the top as at the bottom; they then receive the stone cap on the top. Others are made of cast iron, hollow in the centre, and of various shapes, according to fancy; but the stone pyramid strikes us as the neatest and strongest, and we give a drawing of this simply. All these may be made in our own country, of round wooden blocks, sawed from the body of a tree, and capped with square pieces of plank, and we think answer as good and effectual a purpose as stone or iron, so long as they last.

We need not describe the bottom part of

the frame, as its formation is seen at a glance. In the centre is a pole, and all around this are eight other poles, placed equidistant from each other, and about 2 feet or so from the centre pole at the bottom, and joining it at the top. These ought to be framed into the cross pieces at bottom, and made fast at the top, which any ingenious man can do.

Now commences the stacking, which is done in the usual way of laying up the sheafs of grain; only they are placed round the outside of the eight poles, which leave a hollow circle inside of the stack, 4 feet in diameter, narrowing till it is closed at the top. The stack being raised from the ground, air can get under it; and this hollow being left in the centre, it can also penetrate there; and if heat is generated, it can easily escape. We were told that grain rather green or damp could be stacked in the manner above described, without danger of heat, mould, or growth; and it may remain so for years, without injury, when the stack is put up and well thatched as in fig. 34. In England the stack is a permanent fixture, convenient to the barn for threshing; and instead of being the ugly, ill-shapen, musty mass, that too generally forms our American stacks, they present in their beautiful thatched conical groups, a pleasing appendage, and we can almost add, of neat architecture, which we have paused hundreds of times to contemplate with the utmost pleasure.

The advantages of stacking grain in this

way, over that of placing it in barns, we stated under head of "Tour in England," page 135 of our August No., to which we refer the reader; where it will be seen what a great saving would be made to this country by adopting it. We had three fine stacks of oats nearly ruined the past season, in consequence of being put up a little too green, in the usual close method of stacking; that is, with no air hole in the centre, and resting on a double course of rails, bringing the bottom entirely too near the ground. We shall take care to adopt the English method in future. By stacking their grain, our farmers will not be obliged to make such a rush as they do now to market, and glut it immediately after harvest, and by reference to Mr. L. F. Allen's letter in this No., they will see the economy of feeding fresh threshed straw to cattle.

OUR TERMS.

☞ Taking into consideration the hard times, and the repeated representations of agents, that they could do better for us, if allowed to remit smaller sums, with a fewer number of subscribers; we have come to the conclusion to send *Three* copies of our paper, for every *Two Dollars* forwarded us *free of postage*; and this last can always be done, if our friends will but bear in remembrance, that they are permitted to order the work *free* in all cases, by handing the money over to their respective Post Masters for this purpose.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

☞ We feel deeply grateful to our friends, for the liberal manner in which they have responded to our address of the past month. Our subscription list has increased since our last No. went to press, beyond our most sanguine expectations; indeed more than during any three preceding months, and at this rate, we can say without the shadow of boasting, that it will soon be fully equal to that of any other agricultural paper whatever, in the United States. We shall endeavor to merit their favors by superior embellishments, finer type, larger paper, and a much more varied and extensive correspondence for the succeeding volume; although in all these matters, we think we are doing pretty fairly, as this No. will fully show. All we now want is a few more active agents. Notwithstanding the hard times, thousands would subscribe if we could be brought to their notice or personally solicited; for what is a dollar for such a volume as the *American Agriculturist*, of 384 pages, handsomely

embellished; forming a complete manual almost within itself, of planting, farming, horticulture, and stock breeding, together with much other varied and most interesting matter? Any man can spare a single dollar if he will only think so. He does it for many a thing, we will venture to say, every year, of nothing like the value and interest to him or his family, that our paper would be.

By the article above, it will be seen that we have reduced our terms somewhat, and made them extremely liberal to agents. Any paper copying these, and calling attention to them, or inserting our Prospectus and forwarding us the notice, shall be entitled to one year's subscription, or any twelve Nos. of the *American Agriculturist*.

ADVANTAGES OF AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS.

In the latter part of the sixteenth century, Sir Walter Raleigh had made the discovery, that the potatoe was a nutritious vegetable. He then introduced it into cultivation among his tenants; but it spread slowly, and was not brought over to this country by emigrants, till a company of Irish Presbyterians settled in Londonderry, New Hampshire; and it was forty years more, before this excellent root had become a regular dish on the farmer's table, even in New England. Now, by means of agricultural journals, how soon would the discovery of any new vegetable as valuable as the potatoe, become known throughout the land, and be brought into general cultivation? We will venture to say, if only a single bushel were this day in existence, five years hence the country would be pretty fairly stocked with it; so rapidly would a knowledge of its good qualities and the profit and advantages of cultivating it, be disseminated. And thus the agricultural papers of the present day, would be the means of accomplishing as much in five years, as was done in the olden time without their aid, in two centuries. And are they not now annually bringing about the same result, though perhaps in a less degree, than the supposed one stated above? What man, then, with the least regard for the progress of his profession; the development of the hidden wealth and resources of his country; or the increased comforts and happiness of his species, will refuse to subscribe for one or more agricultural papers?

OUR OFFICE AND READING ROOM.

It is our intention soon, to so enlarge our office, as to make it an agreeable lounge and reading room, to such as please to favor us with a visit. They will find all the American agricultural publications here, together with those of most value from Europe, besides political and other journals, containing the news of the day.

N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

For an account of the annual meeting of this Society, we refer the reader to page 344; the proceedings having come to hand so late, we could not give them that conspicuous place in our paper which they merited.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

For the American Agriculturist.
Sea Manures.

GENT.—Having been much interested in the account in the October No. of your periodical, of the enlightened practice of Mr. Seely, in his management on the Wheat Sheaf Farm, of sea manures, I could not but wish his method was made known to, and practised by all our farmers on the sea coast. I recollect when I resided at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, that the usual way of applying these manures, was exceedingly annoying to many in the neighborhood, and as the method may not be known, at least to your inland readers, I will give you a short detail of its process.

From a little beyond Portsmouth, along the towns of Rye, and Hampton, the coast assumes the shape of a bended bow for 15 miles or so, making it a very favorable section for the reception and retaining of sea manures. When the easterly winds prevail, especially during spring tides in the fall of the year, immense quantities of sea-weed, mingled with more or less fish, are blown up here, which, after the reflux of the water, presents the appearance at a little distance, of large winrows of hay. The former system with our farmers, was to take this up immediately and put it into large heaps without any admixture of earth or other substances, and let it rot all winter. By spring it would be tolerably well decomposed, when it was spread broadcast upon the land, and plowed in for potatoes; and notwithstanding the soil here is of rather a poor quality, 400 bushels would be frequently obtained in consequence of this manure, though 300 might be considered a good average crop. But great objections were made to thus applying the sea-weed and fish; for they not only throw out an unpleasant odor while undergoing decomposition in heaps, disagreeably scenting the air in the neighborhood, but give so strong a taste to the crop, as to make the potatoes unpalatable for the table. In consequence of this, many of the farmers changed their plan of operation, and planted corn instead of potatoes after manuring with fish and sea-weed, or spread the compost on grass lots, and the second or third year after this, devoted the land to potatoes, which then escaped all unpleasant taste; though I have sometimes thought they were not as mealy and sweet as those raised upon land in the same neighborhood, not thus manured. But still we were annoyed by the unpleasant odors of the decomposing heap, and I cannot but think Mr. Seely's method much the best under any circumstances of applying sea manures.

JOHN LANGDON.

Buffalo, January, 1843.

We have just been favored with a package of letters from a young friend of ours, addressed to a relative in this city, from the Island of Madeira. He sailed for that place last February, and arrived in March, and as the letters contain some notices of the manner of cultivating the grape in Madeira, and other topics which we thought might interest our readers, we have made a few extracts. His lungs were dangerously affected when he left home; but we add with great pleasure, that the voyage out and residence there for a few months, proved very beneficial to him, and he has now returned to this city a comparatively hearty and well man.

For the American Agriculturist.

The Island of Madeira, and its Grape Cultivation.

Madeira is nothing more or less than an immense mountain, 35 miles long from east to west, and 20 broad from north to south, and is entirely volcanic. The island is seen at an immense distance at sea. The mountains rise abruptly from the shore, the highest peak of which, has an elevation of about 7000 feet. There is absolutely no level ground on the island. The height of the mountains along the south side (where I am,) cannot be less than 4000 feet. Four or five miles west of this place, is *Cape Giram*, which we passed in coming in to Funchal roadstead. The *pitch* of that cape is one immense precipice with a descent of 1800 feet perpendicular; there are no vallies between the mountains, but everywhere the hills are rent asunder and separated by deep and dark *ravines*—such ravines as my eyes never saw before. Everywhere the island gives evidence of the mighty convulsion of nature, by which it was originally elevated from the bottom of the sea. The scenery is unlike any other I ever saw; and you require to get familiar with it before you like it. There is a mixture of the beautiful and the sublime in it, that is strange and wonderful. Funchal lies on the shore of a large *cove*; there is no harbor, but merely a semicircular indentation in the coast. Behind it, the mountains rise like an amphitheatre to the height, as I should think, of 4000 feet, studded far up their sides with villas called "*quintas*," while everywhere the ground is *terraced*, for without terraces the land would be too steep to cultivate; and often while we are enjoying the bright sunshine and the mild warm atmosphere in Funchal, we can look up and see the mountain tops enveloped in a robe of clouds, and the rain pouring down. But it does not reach us, we are too low down for that. The mountains composing this amphitheatre behind Funchal, are rent by three immense ravines which add to the sublimity of the scenery. One of these ravines passes through the west, one through the middle, and one through the eastern part of the town, dividing Funchal into three parts.

The precipices and the ravines are the wonderful features of Madeira scenery. There is much cultivation on the island, for the soil is very fertile, as indeed, all volcanic soils are—everywhere you see vineyards. The vines are trained along a frame work about 3 feet from the ground, and when the leaves are out, as they are beginning to be at this time, a vineyard presents a very beautiful appearance. The island, where the vine is cultivated, being terraced, adds much to the beauty of the scenery, for each vineyard seems to be composed of several, rising one above the other. Everything here tells of the great business of the island—all the people have more or less to do with wines, no matter what may be their occupations. You see the vineyard on the mountain slope, and as you pass through the streets of Funchal, your nostrils are constantly saluted by the perfume of wine in the vaults, which, by the way, are all on a level with the streets; and a very pleasant perfume it is too. For one, I like the odor, though I cannot drink the wine. The population here are very temperate, though theirs is the wine business. I just said I liked the odor of wines in a wine vault. There certainly is a perfume which you can perceive as you pass a wine vault here, which I never noticed in America, and which I think is very pleasant. I attribute the agreeable nature of the smell, to the fact that there is nothing but wine in the vaults, and that the wines are not so much adulterated as with us.

This is indeed an extraordinary climate. There has been no rain since I landed here, (on the 21st March,) but it rains enough on the tops of the mountains, and

as the water is conducted everywhere by small aqueducts, and all cultivation is carried on by a system of irrigation, we get all the advantages of the mountain showers without their reaching us. Everything around Funchal, shows that it is a very dry climate, and that no rain has fallen for a long time. The climate is very even, too, in its temperature; as a proof of this, I can inform you that the thermometer never varies more than twelve degrees here.

Speaking of flowers, this is a remarkable spot for them. When we anchored here on our arrival, I went on deck in the evening, to get a glimpse of the town by moonlight; and though we were more than half a mile from the shore, I had no sooner reached the deck than I perceived the perfume of the flowers, which was wafted off by the night breeze. The whole atmosphere seemed loaded with it, and it was noticed by every person on board the ship. I do not know that it is always so, but in that case I can vouch for it; and on shore, in my walks, I often perceive the perfume of the gardens.

The Flora of this island is said to be curious and interesting, and the species numerous. Of course, I am no judge, and besides I have not yet been out of Funchal. The mineralogy, on the other hand, is said to be without interest; for the rocks are all volcanic, and there are few species of minerals. As to fruits, this is not the season (April 7th) for grapes, but we have bananas and oranges. The bananas are, in my opinion, finer than the West India, but the orange is small, with a thick skin, and by no means equal to a Havana orange, or to the St. Augustine variety. There are plenty of green peas and cauliflowers in the markets at present. Peaches flourish here in the proper season, and good apples are said to be grown. Lemons grow in plenty here, and the people raise wheat and Indian corn, but not in sufficient quantities for their own consumption. In former times the sugar cane was successfully cultivated, and once gave employment to more than one hundred sugar mills; but the grape has superseded the sugar cane, and I believe there are now but one or two mills.

For the American Agriculturist.

Cost of a Farm, and Raising Products on the Western Prairies.

No, no, gentlemen, "your old friend" is not "lost in a cane-brake," nor yet in a snow storm; although one of my neighbors has been within a week past, and actually perished, and that too, in November, in latitude 41°. He was on a "trip to mill," and got lost on a large prairie on the night of the 16th inst., and perished in one of the most severe storms ever known at this season, since the country was settled.

Little do you know in your "thick settlements," what the pioneers of these "new settlements" have to endure. Not that there is much danger of being "taken by a bear," as the only one that ever ventured into "these diggings," fell a victim to my rifle. As to my "taking to politics," I cannot tell what may happen, as I have known many instances of insanity, "about these days." You will have received "late information from the prairies," before this, which will tell you that the fire of improvement is spreading. The staple commodity of the prairies has always been wheat; and the price heretofore has been so high, that the cultivators have entirely overlooked the necessity of providing, while they may, for a different state of things; consequently the great reduction in price has fallen heavily upon this region. It will not now command over 38 cents in the Chicago market, and although under the operation of some of the beautiful theories of our politicians,

coarse wool is equally depressed, yet when you take into consideration that a vast amount of wheat has this season been hauled into Chicago from 100 to 200 miles, the difference in transportation is so great as to appear at the first glance, vastly in favor of wool.

But I would not wish to be understood as advising the prairie farmer to turn his attention to wool alone. I stated some facts in my communication in the November number of your paper, for the purpose of showing Eastern men what can be done with a little capital on the Western prairies, in sheep business, unconnected with any other branch of farming. The farmers in general turn their attention too much to one object. At one time it is wheat—again pork—and so on. And the grand difficulty is the great want of capital. On this account they are compelled to submit to forced sales. They are unable to hold over a crop. In fact, if able, they have yet to learn how wheat can be kept in stack, as at present they are unable to find storage for the grain after threshing. Will you, Mr. A. B. A., who has seen and can tell, please to enlighten them upon the subject—yes, the science of stacking grain as practiced in England.

You hear complaints of the low price of beef. Do you know how low it can be produced? I believe you are advised that no finer beef was ever eaten than that made upon prairie grass. Let me tell you the actual cost. I can buy calves at \$1 50 each. I have and can hire them wintered until four years old, for \$1 50, each winter. Here, then, I can have the finest fat steers four and a half years old, for \$7 50 a head—cows, of course, at the same cost, including a couple of calves. The cost of sheep growing, Mr. Murray and myself have already stated. As you are whole hog men, I will give you a few items, and leave it to you to "cypher out" the actual cost of western pork. In the first place, pigs are a spontaneous production. Corn on the farm, the present year, and perhaps it is about an average, within fifty or sixty miles of Chicago, is not worth over 12½ cents a bushel. Oats 8 to 10 cents, and potatoes less. And they being so low, I will not pretend to fix a price upon beets, rutabagas, carrots, &c., but they can be raised *cheap*. The summer feed costs little or nothing, and as often as every other year, hogs will get fat upon the mast, which our oak and hickory groves produce abundantly. The next question that I expect your eastern readers to ask, is, Can prairie farmers raise grain at these prices? I will state a few facts, and they shall draw conclusions.

The first cost of land is \$1 25 an acre. The first plowing we generally count as cost, though erroneously. This is worth \$1 50 an acre; or to be better understood, I will state differently. Prairie land is abundant at government price; but timber is mostly in second hands and is held higher. A quarter section of Prairie, that is, 160 acres at \$1 25, is \$200
Timber, say 40 acres, which is more than enough, at \$3, 120
Breaking up the prairie, at 1 50, 240
Fencing it into four lots, eight rails high and stakes, 960 rods, or 3 miles, 15,366 rails at 1 ct. 153 66; 3,840 stakes, at ¼ ct. 19 20, 173
A good comfortable double log cabin, such as first settlers generally occupy, 50
Other small buildings and temporary sheds, 50
Average cost of a well with pump, \$30, with buckets, \$15, 15
I will add to cover contingencies, such as half an acre of land well paled in for garden, a cow yard, hog pen, and other "fixings," 72
This makes the cost of the farm, independent of the woodland, just \$5 an acre—the total, \$920

Here, then, are 160 acres of as rich soil as it is possible to imagine, all ready for the emigrant to take possession of and put in a crop, for the sum of \$800. The first crop of corn will average about 15 bushels; in oats, about 20 bushels; in wheat, about 10 bushels; potatoes about 150; turnips, or rutabagas, 300; buckwheat, 25; beans, peas, millet, pumpkins, mellons, &c. &c. "a right smart chance," and some of the latter, as big "as a good sizeable boy can tote." The second crop will be some better, though the sods will yet be in the way of cultivation. After this you have a deep, loose, rich black soil, which as you do unto it, so it will do unto you. The practice generally adopted, is to take the skin and starve the body—burning straw and wasting manure—"running over" four times as much land as can be cultivated. In my statement of prices, I have taken this county (the Northwestern one in Indiana) for a basis. In others there may be a slight variation. Both in this State and Illinois, Missouri and Iowa Territories, there are thousands of locations to be had at about the rates stated.

If such "information from the prairies" is such as you want, you can be furnished from time to time by

"Your old friend," SOLON ROBINSON.

Lake Co. H., Ia., November 25, 1842.

Agreeably to Mr. Robinson's request, we have given on page 335 of this paper, the best method of English stacking which fell under our observation while abroad. It is the same we have frequently seen practiced in our own country, with the exception of the stone, or cast iron blocks, for the foundation of the stack to rest upon, which are a sure guaranty against rats or mice getting at the grain. In a subsequent letter from Mr. R., we quote a paragraph below, giving an account of a great yield of tallow from a grass-fed cow; but if this is all the Hoosiers have to offer, we think they are bound to strike their "banners," and reverse their "corn-stalk wands" before their eastern rivals; for Mr. Ambrose T. Grey, of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, has recently killed a cow grass-fed also, which gave 180 lbs. rough, making 160 lbs. of tried tallow. We are not advised of the weight of hide and four quarters of Mr. Grey's cow.

For the American Agriculturist.

Cheap Beef and Tallow.

As an illustration of the virtue of prairie grass for making beef, allow me to state that I killed a cow the past fall, entirely grass fed upon the prairie, the quarters of which weighed about 140 lbs. each, hide 72 lbs., and she made 110 lbs. of clean tried tallow.

The common selling price of such a cow alive, is about \$8.

SOLON ROBINSON.

Turning Hogs into Corn Fields at the West.

A good deal has been said pro and con, about turning hogs into corn fields to fatten upon the grain, and we must confess that we have hitherto considered it rather a waste-

ful practice; but the extract which follows from a letter of Judge Beatty, addressed us a short time since, places the system in rather a different light than we have hitherto looked upon it; and enclosing them with moveable fences, is similar to the English practice of feeding off vetches clover, and not unfrequently turnips, with sheep, fenced in with hurdles or netting. Now corn at the west is not as dear as green food is in England; we cannot see therefore, under suitable regulations, why turning hogs into the fields to consume it raw, may not be considered good husbandry as practiced in Kentucky; at least as long as grain is so cheap, and labor so disproportionably dear as is now the case.

For the American Agriculturist.

In relation to turning hogs into fields among growing corn to fatten, you were correct, so far, at least, as it relates to Mason, Fleming, Nicholas, and Bourbon Counties, where I know that practice prevails. Nor do I think it a wasteful practice, when it is applied only to feeding hogs for an early market, that is, for drove hogs. For this purpose corn should be planted early, so as to turn in hogs from the 20th to the last of August, and to have them fit for driving, from the 1st to the 15th October. During this season, we have but little rain, and if hogs are turned only into small fields, (and for this purpose a portion of a large one may be fenced off by a low temporary fence as occasion requires,) it is surprising how little corn will be left on the ground. Besides, when the fattening hogs are turned into the second field, stock hogs may follow to clean up what the fattening hogs have left. When the hogs are turned into corn late in August, there is much saccharine matter in the stalks, and the hogs will not only eat the corn, but will chew much of the stalk, sucking the juice therefrom; and as nothing is taken from the land, it will of course be greatly enriched. For late feeding, when the grain is fully matured, and when the rains are more abundant, we prefer gathering the corn, or shucking it out of the cut up shocks.

A. BEATTY.

Crossing Different Breeds of Animals.

We have a letter from Mr. Z. B. Wakeman, of Herkimer, this State, giving details of his experience in crossing animals of different kinds, and asking various questions of us as to ours, and concludes by saying, "that breeders generally differ in relation to this point, that the male should be of a larger breed than the female, while others contend for the contrary. The cross of the Canadian pony with English mares no doubt is a good specimen of the latter. I have crossed a few Anglo-Merino sheep for my own diversion, with South Down, and Bakewell bucks, but still I should prefer the reverse."

What little experience we have had, coincides entirely with that of Mr. Wakeman, viz: that when animals of different breeds are crossed, the best produce comes from a male of a smaller breed, on a female of a larger one; but then the disproportion must not be too great. Yet we must confess, when the reverse has been the case, we have seen some quite perfect animals as the result, and will instance particularly, that of a powerful 16 hand trotting stallion, upon a Canadian mare not over 13 hands high; a Durham bull

upon Devon cows; and a large Berkshire boar upon Chinese sows. But we apprehend there is much error among breeders, in considering what *true size* is in regard to these matters.

We recollect a party of gentlemen were once present in our stable, examining a fine filly that we then owned; and in pointing out her great substance to them, and powerful developed frame, and though standing but 14 hands 3 inches high, we affirmed that there was scarcely a horse in the town a hand taller than herself, that could girth or measure with her, except in their height. They doubted this, and we immediately commenced the experiment, and to their great surprise, we did not find one horse out of eight that equalled her; and we have no doubt, from her great spread and roomy internal structure, that she was really as *large for breeding purposes*, as many a mare that stood 3 inches or perhaps a full hand taller than herself.

Youatt, in speaking of Devons, makes in substance, the same observation, for he says, "These cows however, although small, possess that roundness and projection of the two or three last ribs, which make them actually *more roomy* than a *careless examination* of them would indicate." We know this to be a fact in regard to Devons, as well as some other breeds of animals, and especially with Chinese hogs, for one standing only 2 feet high, will outgirth in any part of the body, most other breeds 6 inches taller than itself; and frequently there is more than this difference, and we presume that this was in a measure the case with the Canadian mare above mentioned, although we neglected to measure her, for the purpose of ascertaining. In crossing, therefore, more attention should be paid than is usually done, to the size of the female in those parts of the body which surround and enclose the womb.

Cline is doubtless the most experienced and scientific writer upon this subject, and he is decidedly in favor of the male being from the *smallest* breed when different breeds are crossed, which we understand in this way; the male may be *larger* than the female to which he is bred, but not so *large* as the *average* of the males of the same breed as the female. We would copy his opinion here at full length, but it has so often gone the rounds of the press, that we think all must be familiar with it.

To conclude, we know of an excellent breeder in the western part of this state, who has quite superior formed sheep, bred from a cross of the Leicester on the Merino ewe; and that he advocates the reverse method of crossing to Mr. Wakeman and ourselves. But he must recollect that his Leicester bucks are *larger only in flesh*, and that their *bones* are *small* and *fine*—perhaps even of a less size than those of the Merino ewes; were they as much larger than those of the ewes as their bodies are, we are confident it would prove as bad a cross as that detailed by Cline, where the fine Yorkshire mares were put to large cart stallions, and the Normandy mares were bred to the horses of Holstein. In all breeding, it stands to reason and nature, that there must be a *fitness* in things, otherwise the produce will prove a miserable abortion.

For the American Agriculturist.

Lotion for a Bruise or Sprain.

In a letter from Mrs. Susette Andrieu, a woman who, by instinct, experience, and talent, is, as I am persuaded, the best nurse in these United States, I find the following recipe for *sprains and bruises*. My system has always been to spread such things far and wide, for the benefit of humanity and the brute creation. In every family there should be a common-place book, in which such things should be entered or pasted,

for although we often hear of cures for burns, scalds, sprains, colics, &c. &c., when these occur, we have either forgotten the materials or the proportions, or we have them not at hand. How many farmers are there who have such a thing as a set of phlebotomies to bleed a horse, or a bottle with the neck of it wrapped with twine, ready to administer a drench? But to the

Prescription for a Bruise or Sprain.

1 pint soft soap.
1 pint strong vinegar.
1 handful of table salt.
A table spoon full of saltpetre. I. S. S.

We welcome our young friend T. to our columns with pleasure. His account of Mr. Seeley's improvement is just the sort of communications we like; and shows what a great change, a practical, common-sense man can effect with a little perseverance and outlay of capital, even on the most unpromising soil. Four tons of hay at one cutting, is certainly a large crop to be obtained under any circumstances; but we cannot for a moment dispute it, knowing as we do, the respectability of our correspondent; and besides, we have recently received information from other parts of New England, showing incontestibly a similar amount of hay, cut per acre, all which facts, and the manner in which it was done, in due time we shall lay before the public.

We always like to give the names of our correspondents in full to their communications, but T. objects, because he feels "*rather green*" in writing. Very well, when he gets a little more *dried*, or in other words, *seasoned* to the thing, we hope he will not feel quite so diffident. In a private note, he promises an article or two on the Island of Cuba, and the Bahamas; where he thinks he will be more at home among orange groves, coffee trees, and pine apple grounds, than with Connecticut corn-stalks, and Weston pond holes. We think him sufficiently at home *anywhere*, and are of opinion his Cuba article will strongly interest our southern friends.

For the American Agriculturist.

Reclaiming Swamps and Stony Land.

Weston, Fairfield Co., Conn., Jan. 16, 1843.

MESSRS. A. B. & R. L. ALLEN:—

In 1836, Mallett Seeley, Esq., of this town, purchased a tract of land here, containing 11 acres, at \$28 per acre, a price which, even in those times of speculation, was considered high. It was emphatically a hard bargain, the surface of the ground being covered with large stones; a small part of the tract also, was a ledge, and another part a swamp, with bushes on it, and this quite stony.

In 1837, Mr. Seeley commenced improving two acres situated near the centre of the piece. About one-third of these two acres was occupied by a pond of stagnant

water, from four to six feet deep in the centre; the more shallow parts were covered with swamp alders, pond willows, and other shrubs. The pond had never been known to be entirely dry. The remainder of the two acres was pretty much covered with stones, many of them loose on the surface, and many firmly imbedded in the ground. At that time not one-quarter of the two acres was considered capable of being plowed, and a man would have been in great danger of barking his shins who attempted even *that*.

Mr. Seeley began his operations on the pond-hole, where first of all he dug a ditch of about 30 rods in length, which let off the water, and then cut all the bushes which grew there. Leaving the pond, he then drew off the loose stones which covered the remainder of the two acres, and deposited them on the line where the fence enclosing the lot was to be made. He then got an instrument called here, a "stone eradicator," and also the two strongest yokes of cattle he could find. He worked this tool, (which requires three men to manage it,) about two days, in getting the fast stones out of the ground ready to draw off; and then drew them to the same place as the rest. Some of the stones were so large, that it was necessary to blast them after they were out of their beds, before they could be dragged off. This was done in the summer of 1837.

The following October being very dry, he resumed his labors on the pond-hole, from which the water had been entirely discharged by the ditch. He now dug the ditch still deeper, and laid an underdrain about 15 rods long—the remaining 15 rods were left open. With a yoke of cattle, he then drew out the roots of the bushes from the pond-hole, and ploughed the bottom of it in all directions, and with a scraper, scraped out the muck, so that the bottom was three feet lower in the centre than the bottom of the underdrain, which formed the outlet. In the spring of 1838 he ploughed the hard land, manured it with about thirty cart loads of barn-yard manure, and planted it with corn which gave promise of a good crop, but was mostly cut off by an early frost. The season being wet, he did not work at the pond-hole, but planted the margin with potatoes without manure, and got an excellent crop. During this summer he inclosed the two acres with a heavy stone wall.

In the spring of 1839, he sowed that part of the lot where he had corn the preceding year, (about one and a half acres) with oats, and seeded with a half bushel of timothy seed, and a peck of clover seed, and again planted the margin of the pond-hole with potatoes, manured in the hills, and had capital crops. As soon as the potatoes were dug, in order to rid himself of the stones yet remaining on the lot, he drew them into the pond-hole, so as to raise the bottom above the underdrain forming the outlet; and having thrown over them a sufficient quantity of shavings and brush, to prevent the dirt from falling down between the stones, he scraped back the muck over the brush to the depth of two feet. He had now finished the pond, which you will observe was in a manner underdrained throughout, and got rid of the stones on the remainder of the lot.

As soon as these operations on the pond-hole were completed, and late in the same autumn, Mr. Seeley carried about ten cart loads of barn-yard manure on to the now reclaimed pond-hole, plowed and cross-plowed, and sowed it with rye, and seeded it with one peck of timothy seed. In 1840 he mowed two large crops of clover from the upland part of the lot, and had a great crop of rye on the former pond-hole; and in the fall of the same year he mowed a very heavy crop of timothy, where but a few weeks before he had a crop of rye. In the same fall he sowed a quarter of a ton of plaster, which cost \$6 per ton in the lot, on the two acres.

About the 20th of June, 1841, he mowed a very heavy crop of timothy from the whole lot, but did not take particular notice of the amount of product. Immediately after mowing, he sowed another quarter of a ton of plaster on the lot, and during the same season mowed another large crop of grass. In the autumn of the same year he gave the meadow a top dressing of 15 cart loads of barn-yard manure. In the summer of 1842, the crop was so large that he took particular pains to ascertain the amount—it was *four tons per acre*, and the meadow was mowed but once that season, and this was as early as the last of June. As soon as the grass had started again, two cows and a horse were turned into it; it furnished them with good pasture during the greater part of the remainder of the season, and they were pasturing there when the snow came in December. At that time, the upland part afforded good feed, and the pond-hole part would have mowed a good swath.

Mr. Seeley calculates that the crops he obtained from the lot while under tillage, together with the first crop of grass, paid him for all he had laid out on the land, leaving him the lot in its improved condition, at its original cost. He estimates its value, even in these times of reduced prices, at \$100 per acre.

These improvements on this small lot have been effected at an expense of \$125—or \$62 50 per acre. Your own skill and experience will enable you to say, whether the money has been wisely expended. It may be that others have obtained an equal product from the same extent of land, but it may well be doubted whether the same results have been in *many* instances, produced on a spot so unpromising. The remaining nine acres of Mr. Seeley's original purchase are undergoing the same process of amelioration, and bid fair to afford a satisfactory result.

In conclusion, I would assure you, that you may rely on the truth of the foregoing statement—for nothing has been asserted which cannot be proved.

With much respect,
Your ob't serv't,

T.

We make no apology to our readers, for giving the following familiar letter in extenso, just as it was addressed us. It is generally known that the writer of it is an elder brother, whose communications have appeared previously from time to time, in this paper over his initials. He now consents, in accordance with our request, that his name shall be affixed in full.

As some are at a loss about our respective names, we deem it proper to add, that it was Mr. L. F. Allen, who wrote with so much effect and popularity several years ago, for the *Genesee Farmer*, under the signature of *Ulmus*, and not either of ourselves; and we trust his communications will not be received with the less favor by an indulgent public, now that he abandons the unbrageous shade of the *Elm*, and appears under that of his own proper person. He is a man of large experience in farming and stock breeding where he is situated, and the public may rely upon his statements as those of a thorough-going practical man. After this explanation

we shall deem it unnecessary to make further introductions to his communications.

For the American Agriculturist.

DORKING FOWLS.—I have had frequent inquiries from persons at a distance, for pairs of the Dorking Fowls you brought me last year from England. As I ordered them solely for my own use, and not for sale, I take pleasure in giving them away as they can be spared, to any of my friends who feel the least desirous of obtaining them. In those raised this year, I have been unfortunate in the sexes; having at least three males to one female. I have now ten pullets, and several cocks, and very beautiful they are too. The hens are Pheasant-shaped; with a clean and beautiful head and throat; and a deep, heavy brisket, like a Durham heifer. The cocks are magnificent—variegated in color, with a brilliancy of plumage I never saw surpassed, and rarely equalled. I had the curiosity the other evening to weigh a pair of them. The cock, now 17 months old, weighed 8 lbs., and the hen, of the same age, 5 lbs., both in common flesh only. I have no doubt if fattened, the one would have weighed 10, and the other at least 6 pounds.

A friend who is a great fancier of fine animals, and who possesses in his various breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, dogs, &c. &c., as fine specimens as the country can produce, in a note to a letter recently received, observes: "The Dorking Cock you sent me is a superb fowl—I shall hereafter make this my chief stock of hens. Cannot you send me a pullet in the spring?"

Although now in the depth of winter, with over a foot of snow on the ground, the hens lay daily, running out, in the severest cold.

WINTERING STOCK.—You ask to know how my stock progresses thus far through the winter? You shall have the whole story. You saw, last fall, my barn and what was in it, and noted the stacks in the field. Our stock now consists of some 110 head of neat cattle, and about 20 horses. Of these last, four are work horses for the farm, and the residue mares and colts; nearly all fine high blooded trotting animals. We cut last season some 110, or 115 tons of hay, mostly of good quality; and about 140 acres of wheat, oats, and barley. On the 18th November the winter set in suddenly, with a furious gale and snow storm, extraordinarily early, even for this northern climate, which drove the cattle directly into winter quarters. Although illy prepared to receive them thus early, a shift was made, and they were at once attended to. The cows, 32 in number, with two yoke of working oxen, are all stabled nightly and fed with hay, and after being let out and watered about 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning, pick straw through the day in the yard. The young stock, composed of steers, heifers, and calves, have been fed with the coarser hay from the stacks till a few days since, when our thrashing having regularly commenced, they were driven to the barn, and are there fed on straw all they will eat. The calves, of which there are upwards of 30, I have divided into two classes—the elder, and the younger, but all of this year's produce, and keep them in two adjoining yards and houses, with ample mangers for hay. They go in and out at pleasure; are watered once a day, (this is all they will drink,) and fed with hay night and morning, and pick considerable straw through the day. A very few oats are given them, and they are growing as rapidly as when on grass. All have salt once a week, and are in thriving condition and good health.

The mares and colts range in the yard with an open shed to go under at pleasure, and feed mostly on straw,

coarse hay, orts, and chaff; then, by turns, they do the thrashing, and when so employed, are stabled and better fed than when running out. They are salted and watered like the cattle, and are doing equally well. There is one peculiarity, and a very beneficial one I find, which all farmers do not understand in wintering horses and neat stock, on the same farm. Our work horses are stabled in a separate barn by themselves. The cows daily go to their dung heap, and pick out and devour most greedily every straw of bedding, or litter that is thrown out from the stables; and in return the colts go to the cattle heaps and work away there daily, gorging themselves with the litter almost to bursting. A lot of young shoats glean after all, and in this manner hardly a grain of anything is lost.

A WORD OR TWO HERE OF THRASHING.—I have no thrashing machine. Wheat farmers who grow large quantities of grain, and want it early in market, may find them necessary; but such as have stock to winter, I fancy will see little profit in them. It is certainly as expensive as either horse or flail thrashing, with more waste of grain. *Cattle like horse thrashed straw better than any other*; and where it can be done daily through the winter, and fed out from the floor, a snug tidy job is made of it. Two men, with four or six horses or colts, will thrash and clean up 75 to 100 bushels of oats or barley per day, and throw the straw to the cattle.

You may ask what labor is required for the attendance of this stock? One thoroughly smart man can tend the whole of them; but as some 20 of the cows are thorough bred short-horns, and Devons, a bull or two, &c., of which I take a little extra care; one man has charge of the *fine* or blood stock, together with all the early calves, and 6 suckling besides—60 in all, and cleans the stables, cuts up a few roots for three or four of the nursing cows, young calves, &c., and attends to their suckling twice a day. This man is no *swifter*, is going on 60 years old, but is methodical as a clock, and neglects nothing. The other stock, excepting the work horses, is attended to by one man, who does the milking, cleaning of stables, and other little notions, which takes altogether about half his time. In what experience I have had in growing stock, I find there is no economy in neglecting one's animals. It is "saving at the spiggot and losing at the bung." During the past year I have lost but one animal, and that by an accident.

FARM HOUSES.—I have seen and read the designs of a great many farm-houses in the agricultural papers. Many of these are *queer* things; fit for any body but a farmer. Mr. Downing, of Newburg, has, I observe, published a book of designs which I think well of, and hope it will improve the taste of our people generally in this particular; for I honestly confess to you that I think our rural architecture in America is as uncouth as need be; oftentimes scandalously expensive, and withal comfortless, and inconvenient. I have been putting up a snug little affair of this kind which is hardly yet finished. It has cost but little, yet to my eye it is convenient, snug, and sufficient for all needful farm purposes. I will send you a drawing of it before long, which if you approve, you may publish.

MUTTON SHEEP.—I often regret that I cannot keep sheep. You know how I have tried to keep these useful animals, and how my efforts have been thwarted. Were I again to attempt it, I should be disposed to follow the plan of my intelligent friend, William Garbutt, of Monroe county. He has a select flock of well bred Merino ewes, crossed by a thorough bred Bakewell buck. The lambs are large with astonishing fleeces; woolled as profusely as the Merino, and nearly as long as the Bakewell; of a good quality—with a round, compact carcase, susceptible of extraordinary fatness.

Mr. Garbutt breeds only by a direct cross from one thorough bred to the other; and occasionally by a second cross of the thorough bred buck on the grade ewes thus produced, in order to deepen the blood on either one side or the other. He remarked to me when I saw his flock, that the grade animals, in the produce of the two extremes, when bred together deteriorated rapidly, losing their caste and uniformity; but bred directly to pure stock on either side, the produce is fine and beautiful. His usual course is to select superior Merino ewes and use a Bakewell ram.

I admire the noble, systematic form of the Bakewell, and the smooth, compact, muscular Southdown; but their high prices and scarcity, have hitherto prevented the general farmer from obtaining them in number sufficient to make up his flock. The Southdown crossed on the Merino produces a beautiful animal. I once tried them, and the produce, both in carcase and wool was admirable.

THE WHITE CARROT is a most excellent root for stock; horses, cattle, and hogs are very fond of them. It was near the middle of June last year, before I obtained my seed and got it planted. It came up about the first of July. It was sown on a light piece of sandy loam, naturally strong, cleared up about 7 years ago, and was never manured. They grow partially out of the ground like the Mangel Wurtzel, and have a beautiful clean taper root. They pull as easy and clean as a radish. I measured a small piece of about 4 square rods, and the yield was at the rate of upwards of 1000 bushels to the acre. Could they have grown another month, it would have added greatly to their size and product. I intend trying them extensively next year. These and sugar beet are the best roots I have ever grown. The latter have always yielded abundantly with me; 8 to 1200 bushels is a fair crop. I never have succeeded *uniformly* with Ruta Bagas.

THE WHITE FIELD BEAN is a valuable and profitable crop, and yet with all its value, little attended to by our farmers. I planted this year about one-third of an acre of the large kidney variety—hoed them only once, and harvested upwards of 10 bushels—they grew beside my white carrots above mentioned. I planted in hills, about 2½ by 2 feet apart. Had they been better cultivated, I presume the crop would have been much greater. There is no more profitable vegetable for food. Observing housekeepers have remarked that one bushel of beans for family consumption, is worth 4 bushels of wheat, and I believe it. No better, more savory, or substantial diet can be produced, than the luscious pork crowned "pot of baked beans."

A GOOD KITCHEN GARDEN is scarcely ever half valued by our farmers. No spot of ground of five times its extent yields half so much of real housekeeping comforts as the garden; and although farmers generally dislike to "putter" about a garden, yet no part of the farm is more profitable, and nothing helps so much towards good and wholesome living, as its products. I have tried it thoroughly for years, and have found my account in it. Besides, it is a delightful object to look at, and gives any spot a more homelike appearance, than all other objects combined. Every farmer should raise his own garden seed. They are better than those he can buy.

L. F. ALLEN.

Black Rock, Jan. 1843.

Happening up at the Bulls' Head the other day, with a view of looking over the cattle there, our eye was instantly attracted to a fine lot of grade Short Horns; and inquiring

for their owner, we soon found him among those present, in our excellent friend, General Shelby, of Kentucky; and as there has been much dispute about the ability of Durhams *driving* as well as the native stock, we solicited the facts relative to the journey of the present drove. It seems, owing to their heavier weight, that over the *frozen* ground, they did not travel as well as the common animals; but on a *good* road they did. So far then, as this experiment is concerned, we may infer that to start them early in the season, there can be no material difference in the time of traveling, of Durham over native cattle. "Well then," the reader will say, "give us the natives." But softly, if you please, and don't jump at conclusions quite so rapidly; for in the first place, a 4 year old steer, three-fourths bred, was the *leader* of the lot the whole of the way; and he would weigh at least 1,200 lbs. and in form was almost as good in the brisket and other points, as fig. 31 is represented on page 330 of this paper. He would make *English Mess Beef*, and if sold alone, would have brought at least *one cent* per lb. more than any native animal present, although the market was full on that day, and several hundred fat beasts for sale. As it was, General Shelby had the satisfaction of taking one-half cent more per lb. for his entire lot, than the best herd of native animals present could command. And the same was the case when we were in the New Orleans market last spring; the grade Durhams from Kentucky, being floated down the Mississippi, and arriving in better condition than they can here, after their long tedious drive over the mountains, sold for at least one cent more per pound there than the native cattle. Here then, is the striking difference exemplified in dollars and cents, of the utility of improving our cattle. We need only add, that General Shelby, in connection with the Hon. Henry Clay, imported a superior lot of Short Horns from England, about five years ago, which we had the pleasure of examining at Buffalo, on their rout to Kentucky.

For the American Agriculturist.

DRIVING CATTLE FROM KENTUCKY.

New York, 18th Jan., 1843.

MESSRS. A. B. & R. L. ALLEN:

The 22 head of cattle, which you examined at the Bull's Head on Monday last, were the residue of a lot of 54 head, which I sent off to this market on the 2d of October, with the desire of getting them in about Christmas. One-half were common stock five years old, and estimated to average nine hundred. The others, such as you saw, being about three-fourths bred Durhams, of the importation of '17, upon the Patton stock, were 5 and 6 years old, and estimated to weigh

fifteen hundred, at home. One-half the distance was made in the usual time, the large cattle evincing as good traveling qualities as the others; and this, I doubt not, would have proved to have been the case throughout, if the roads had not become rough and frozen; while this was the case, the large stock had to lay by, and it was barely practicable for the others to keep in motion; there was consequently a difference of fourteen days in the times of arrival. The separation of the drove, which at first was only about half as large as we usually have them, and the long period of 90 to 105 days they were on the road, occasioned an expenditure of fifty per cent. more than our stock ordinarily costs in driving in the spring season.

So far as I have been able to judge of the weights of the cattle here, I think the common stock lost about 12 per cent, and the large ones about 15 per cent. of their weight. It is presumable that there would have been little or no difference in this respect, provided the state of the roads had permitted the stock to keep together, and perform the trip in the ordinary time of 65 or 70 days.

The foregoing facts, with the inferences deducible therefrom, touching the relative merits of the improved and unimproved breeds of cattle, are at your service.

I am respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

JAMES SHELBY.

As several of our correspondents have written to us inquiring the price of seed wheat, we refer them to General Harmon's letter below, for answer; and for further particulars of its cultivation, they will find them page 261 of our Dec. No.

For the American Agriculturist.

Varieties of Seed Wheat and their Prices.

MESSRS. A. B. & R. L. ALLEN:

The White May Virginia wheat that I have under cultivation, I received from Mr. Cocke, of Virginia, late in the fall of 1837. The first two years it yielded so well, that in 1840 I sowed fifteen acres. The following spring was very unfavorable for winter wheat, owing to frequent freezings and thaws. My White May was more injured than the improved White Flint, and not as much as several other varieties. The two last seasons I have sown but one bushel each season of the White May, that quantity being sufficient to experiment upon. It is in its growth not as large straw as some varieties, and very much resembles the improved White Flint. Chaff white and bald; berry red, very flinty, and heavy, weighing from sixty-three to sixty-six pounds per bushel. It is one week earlier than the common varieties, and has not suffered any by rust, while other varieties sown on the same land, and at the same time, have suffered severely some seasons.

I have tried it on oak opening land, of a sandy and gravelly loam, and clay soils, and on the beach and maple lands, soil as above, and on river bottoms. On the last, the straw was bright and berry plump, while the Flint was badly rusted and shrunk. The White Flint has been the soundest and most hardy variety that we have here, but it was there outdone by the White May. On the oak lands the White Flint has proved the most favorable of any of the varieties that I have tested. The two last seasons I have had frequent applications for the White May, but have not sold a single bushel for seed. I have sent several lots to the west and south, from one to two quarts in a place, at

the request of those who were anxious to experiment on new varieties.

The varieties that I have under cultivation as experiments, are sown in strips through the field, about one bushel each, all on the same soil and at the same time; and I select my seed for the next sowing from a strip through the middle of each variety, so as to keep it as pure as possible. The improved White Flint is my main crop. I have sold several hundred bushels a year for several years past for seed, which has gone to other States and Canada, and as yet I have not heard any complaint as to purity or quality.

My price at the barn has been 25 cents per bushel over the miller's price. From here to New-York it has cost from 31 to 38 cents per bushel in barrels. Barrels cost from 31 to 38 cents each, holding three and a-half bushels. I expect to be able to supply orders for my improved White Flint at former prices; and from my experimental field I would furnish small lots at fair prices. I will forward you a barrel of samples immediately after harvest. I do not suffer my experiment crop to be put in the barn with my main crop, but thresh my seed in my hay barn, on a canvass, with the flail; this precaution is necessary to keep them pure.

I have under cultivation the Bellevue Talevera, English White, White Province (French), White May Virginia, White Silver Beard, from Kentucky, better known in this State as Hutchinson Wheat, or Bearded Flint, or Canada Flint, and Wheatland Red. This is nearly as early as the Virginia May, from which it was obtained by sowing in the Spring, Common Flint, Improved Flint, and several other varieties in small plots. Several of the varieties that I have tested have been reputed as not being hardy, or producing a berry of inferior quality. I dislike all bearded varieties. Last fall I received a sample of the Mediterranean Wheat, from Mr. Ellsworth, of the Patent Office, which I have sown. It is said to be very hardy, and seldom injured by the fly or rust. Its long stiff beards, and dark and thick bran, producing flour of inferior quality, are strong objections to it on our fine wheat soils.

Any communications on wheat or its culture, received through the American Agriculturist, or otherwise, post paid, will be duly noticed.

Yours respectfully, R. HARMON, JR.

WHEATLAND, Monroe Co., N. Y. Jan. 20, 1843.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Being unable to attend, we had made arrangements for a report of the annual meeting of this society, but for some reason or other, unexplained to us, we have not yet received it. We are therefore greatly obliged to Messrs. E. P. Prentice and C. N. Bement, of Albany, for their several letters detailing the general proceedings, but as the editors of the Cultivator have been so obliging as to forward us a proof sheet of the whole, in anticipation of the issue of their paper, we shall copy from that all for which we have space. We beg leave to return our thanks to Messrs. Gaylord & Tucker for this favor, and shall be happy to reciprocate it any time in our power.

The annual meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society was held in this city, on the 18th of Janu-

ary. The Society convened at 9 o'clock, A. M., in the Lecture Room of the Young Men's Association, the President in the chair. Gentlemen were in attendance from the counties of Albany, Cayuga, Columbia, Greene, Jefferson, Livingston, Lewis, Monroe, Montgomery, Madison, Otsego, Oneida, Orange, Oswego, Queens, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Steuben, Saratoga, Tompkins, and Wayne.

The Report of the award of premiums on Field Crops, &c. was read by the Secretary, Mr. TUCKER, as follows:—

At the regular meeting of the Executive Committee, on the second Wednesday of January, 1843, the several statements of the competitors for the premiums on Field Crops, Essays, Paintings, Engravings, and Designs for Farm Buildings, were referred to appropriate committees, upon whose report the following premiums are awarded:

ON FIELD CROPS.*

ON INDIAN CORN.—First Premium to *Samuel Phelps*, of Ira, Cayuga county. 122 bushels per acre—\$15.

Second, to *Wm. Ingells*, of Volney, Oswego county. 89 bushels per acre—\$10.

Third, to *Joseph F. Osborn*, of Port Byron—\$5.

Fourth, to *Anthony Van Bergen*, of Coxsackie, Greene county. 85 bushels 51 lbs. per acre—Diploma.

ON BARLEY.—First Premium to *Nathaniel S. Wright*, of Vernon, Oneida county. 53 bushels per acre—\$10.

Second, to *T. I. Vandever*, of Amsterdam, Montgomery county. 40½ bushels per acre—\$5.

ON RYE.—First premium to *Israel F. Goodwin*, of Westmoreland, Oneida county. 32 bushels and 36 lbs. per acre—\$10.

Second, to *T. I. Vandever*, of Amsterdam. 28 bushels, 29 quarts per acre—\$5.

ON OATS.—First Premium to *Samuel Phelps*, of Ira, Cayuga county. 102 bushels per acre—\$10.

Second, to *Wm. A. Russell*, of Salem, Washington county. 97 bushels per acre—\$5.

Diploma, to *Israel F. Goodwin*, of Westmoreland. 81 bushels per acre.

The Committee also recommend a special Premium of \$10, to *Geo. Sheffer*, of Wheatland, Monroe county, for his crop of oats of 871½ bushels, from 9½ acres of land, being an average of 91½ bushels per acre.

ON PEAS.—First Premium to *George White*, of Rutland, Jefferson county. 33½ bushels per acre—\$10.

ON POTATOES.—First Premium to *George White*, of Rutland, Jefferson county. 1 acre 18–10 rods—421½ bushels Pinkeyes—\$10.

Second, to *George Sheffer*, of Wheatland. 400 bushels per acre—\$5.

RUTA BAGAS.—First Premium, to *John McConnel*, of Canandaigua. 855½ bushels per acre—\$10.

ON BEETS.—The First Premium for beets, to *George Sheffer*, of Wheatland. 1 acre 12 rods—1026½ bushels—\$10.

ON CARROTS.—First Premium to *Wm. Risley* of Fredonia, Chautauque county. 985½ bushels per acre—\$10.

ON ESSAYS, &c.

There were no competitors for the Premiums offered for Essays on Agricultural Chemistry, on Rotation of Crops, and on the introduction of New Agricultural Products.

For the Premium for the best Essay on the General Management of the Farm, four Essays were presented.

* Several applications for the Premiums on Field Crops, have been received by the Rec. Secretary, since the annual meeting of the Society.

The premium was awarded to *Willis Gaylord*, of Otisco, Onondaga county—\$20.

But two Essays were offered for the Premium on the Management and Application of Manures. The Premium was awarded to *Willis Gaylord*, of Otisco—\$20.

DESIGNS.—For the Premium on the best plan of a Farm House, Barn, and necessary out-buildings, three plans were presented. The Gold Medal was awarded to *John J. Thomas*, of Macedon, Wayne county; and a Silver Medal to *D. G. Mitchell*, Salem, Conn., for the second best.

PAINTINGS.—The Committee to whom were referred the several Paintings offered for the Gold Medal of the Society, for the best specimen of Paintings of Domestic Animals, recommended that medals of equal value be given to *Woodside*, of Philadelphia, and *Van Zandt*, of Albany.

The Silver Medal for the best specimen of Floral Painting, was awarded to *E. Whitfield*, Albany.

ENGRAVINGS.—The Gold Medal for the best engraved portrait on wood, of Domestic Animals, was awarded to *J. W. Orr*, of this city.

Here an interesting letter was then read by the President, from the Corresponding Secretary, *Henry S. Randall*, Esq., who, it seems, is not yet able to forward his annual report, in consequence of not having received many of the communications designed for it. He states that he has addressed about three hundred official letters to eminent agriculturists in different parts of the globe, which have already been extensively responded to, and in any event, we shall look for an interesting and voluminous report from him when it comes.

The Report of the Treasurer, *E. P. Prentice*, Esq. was then read. The receipts and disbursements of the Society for the last year, were as follows:

Balance on hand, Jan. 19, 1842,	\$ 969.36
Receipts during the year,	2,349.92
	<hr/>
	\$3,319.28
Payments for Premiums and expenses,	1,475.36
	<hr/>
	\$1,843.92

The Treasurer estimates the sum now due by the Society for Premiums, &c., at about \$450, leaving a balance of about \$1,400 in the treasury, after the payment of all demands against it.

Several resolutions were now adopted, the most important of which were:

That a number of copies of Dana's "Muck Manual," and Ruffin's "Essay on Calcareous Manures," be distributed as State Society Premiums.

That a conference be had with the State Geologists, on the subject of establishing an Agricultural Museum.

That a meeting of breeders be held for the purpose of discussing the different points of merit in domestic animals, with a view of arriving at some definite opinion as to the points most desirable to be obtained in breeding.

That the New York State Agricultural Society regard with great interest the proposition of *Henry Colman*, Esq., to make an Agricultural Tour through some of the most highly cultivated portions of Europe, and anticipate from this distinguished writer and friend of Agriculture, a body of valuable information, which

will impart a fresh impulse to agricultural improvement throughout our country: and the Society therefore directed the Treasurer to subscribe for 100 copies.

That it be recommended to the Executive Committee to hold the next annual Fair of the Society in the city of Rochester.

That the State Society respectfully petition the Legislature for as many copies as they may see fit to grant, of the Natural History of the State, now in course of publication, to be distributed in Premiums by the Executive Committee.

The Cultivator adds, that several other resolutions of much interest in relation to the objects of the Society were discussed and finally referred to the Executive Committee for further action.

Only two communications are reported, that of Mr. E. K. James, of Poughkeepsie, on the cultivation of wheat, and Mr. C. N. Bement, of Albany, on dairy salt, manufactured at South Hadley, Mass., by Messrs. Bardwell, Damon, & Co., for \$1 12 cts. per bushel. Mr. B. and others assert from their own experience, that it is superior to any other kind whatever for the dairy.

On the report of the committee appointed for that purpose, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected officers of the Society for the ensuing year:

JAMES S. WADSWORTH, Livingston, *President*.

Vice Presidents.

1st dist., JAMES LENOX, New York.

2d " ROBERT DENNISTON, Orange.

3d " ANTHONY VAN BERGEN, Greene.

4th " E. C. DELAVAN, Saratoga.

5th " JONATHAN D. LEDYARD, Madison.

6th " Z. A. LELAND, Steuben.

7th " J. M. SHERWOOD, Cayuga.

8th " L. B. LANGWORTHY, Monroe.

H. S. RANDALL, Cortland Village, *Cor. Secretary*.

LUTHER TUCKER, Albany, *Rec. Secretary*.

EZRA P. PRENTICE, Albany, *Treasurer*.

Additional Members of the Executive Committee.—

C. N. Bement, Albany; H. D. Grove, Buskirk's Bridge; Alex. Walsh, Lansingburgh; J. M. D. McIntyre, Albany; Thomas S. Hillhouse, Watervliet.

The address of the President, James S. Wadsworth, Esq., is spoken of very highly, and we are happy to see that a copy for the press has been solicited.

Upon the whole, things look very promising with the Society, and we shall expect to see it growing in favor with the people, and adding annually to the interest and usefulness of its proceedings.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL NEWS.

From the London Far. Mag., for Nov., we condense some valuable information.

SHEEP MANAGEMENT.—From the discussion at the Leominster Farmers' club, it was agreed:

That 152 days is the average time of gestation for ewes.

That a Leicester, or any long-wooled ram, if sent to the pasture with ewes, will serve 70, if kept in, and the ewes taken to him, 140.

That one South Down ram, if sent to the ewes, will serve 100, if kept up, 150.

That about a fortnight or three weeks previous to the season, the ewes should be changed to a better pasture; and that during the time of pregnancy, they should be well, but not highly kept—a dry pasture being preferable.

That assistance to ewes at the time of yearning, should be cautiously given.

That if it be necessary to administer anything to weak lambs, a tea-spoonful of peppermint is much to be preferred to ardent spirits.

That the feed during the lambing season, should be on a dry pasture with a southern aspect.

That on the third day after weaning, the ewes should be once thoroughly milked.

That after weaning the wethers be separated from the ewe lambs, and both be divided into small lots; as they thrive much better than when large numbers are kept together.

That an occasional change is preferable to a permanent pasture.

That as at this season of the year, when the frosty mornings set in, several of the lambs of a flock are lost, apparently from the same disease, the seat of which has generally been considered to be an obstruction of the water passage, the following recipe has been found highly beneficial, and has been known altogether to avert the catastrophe, if regularly and skillfully applied:—

A teaspoonful of turpentine; after which three table-spoonful of savine tea, and the same quantity of rue tea, mixed together. As the turpentine will not mix with the latter ingredient, it must be given *alone*. This dose should be given at the interval of a week. The same quantity of turpentine may also be administered in a little common salt and water, either from a horn or bottle; if properly done, it is calculated that 100 lambs may be drenched in an hour. It was also recommended that the lambs should be folded the night before, that the dose may be given when fasting.

That for washing sheep, tanks constructed for the purpose by the side of brooks or rivers should be used; this situation being preferred as admitting a free current of water, and affording protection to the washers, as well as insuring the better and more effectual performance of the work.

That the process of shearing should never be carried on without a proper application for shear-cuts being at hand; as by a little precaution on the subject, many an irritating and troublesome sore is prevented, and the shepherd saved considerable trouble; also that the following recipe has been proved eminently successful, viz:—Friar's Balsam, Tincture of Myrrh, and Goulard Extract.

That fly-powdering should be resorted to as soon as the sheep are shorn, and repeated monthly, or as the weather may render it necessary.

We commend all the above suggestions except the large number of ewes to be bred to the bucks, which, if it be not presumptuous, to place our opinion in opposition to such thorough practical breeders, we should say was too large. One great cause of poor stock is, the excessive service demanded of males, and we would err on the safe side in this particular.

PORTRAITS.—The embellishments of the London Far. Mag. are chiefly engraved on steel, are of a highly finished style, and have been somewhat varied lately by the introduction of the portraits of eminent agriculturists; and we must confess, as fond as we are of animals, that we are glad to see the change. The August

number has a portrait of that eminent breeder, Robert Bakewell, whose biography is copied into our November number. He is represented as a large, stout, full-faced, John-Bull-looking man; with a very fine eye, and handsome expressive mouth; and a physiognomy upon the whole, indicative of genius. One cannot judge of his head, from the massive wig and broad brimmed hat which cover it.

In the November number we have a portrait of the celebrated Earl Spencer. It shows an intellectual face, but we do not like it so well as his own living physiognomy, that we had the pleasure of seeing last year in Yorkshire.

THE LONDON NEW FARMERS' JOURNAL. We wish to call attention to this able and well conducted paper. It is weekly, and in addition to more or less agricultural matter, gives a summary of the politics and news of the day, and in fact, is a most excellent family newspaper, such an one we should suppose, as English emigrants would desire much to read in this country. It has latterly added greatly to its interest and value, by giving engravings on wood of celebrated animals, and agricultural implements. These are executed in a style superior to anything we have in this country. The three animals before us, are the Duke of Northumberland, Duchess 34th, and Cleveland Lad, from Mr. Bates' celebrated stock, all of which have received the first prizes, both at the Yorkshire and Royal Agricultural Society of England. We have seen these animals, and can attest to the general truth of the portraits. The Duke, we think, has hardly justice done him, but the Duchess stands forth in all her noble proportions, the most splendid cow we ever looked at.

Mr. Bates has furnished a short memoir of his family of Short Horns, to accompany the two first portraits, but as a more particular account of their history appeared in our Sept. No. we shall not further advert to it, now than to add, it is concluded quite characteristically. "Hundreds of men" he says, "may be found to make a Prime Minister, for one fit to judge of the real merits of animals." We are half inclined to echo the opinion.

We have noticed the paragraph addressed to us by the editors of the New Farmers' Journal, in their paper of 14th November, and shall take care to see the American Agriculturist forwarded hereafter, minus the heavy post duty.

Dr. Playfair was to deliver a series of lectures in December, on the "Application of the principles of Physiology to the fattening of cattle."

INDIA SILK WORMS AND MULBERRY TREES.—At the meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, a report was made, stating that the silk business in Afghanistan pays a profit of 100 per cent, and recommends the introduction of it into Candahar and other parts of India. It states that the eggs of the silk worm in Bengal, are hatched three times in the year, while those in the south of Europe have but one crop annually. We have just conversed with a French gentleman, who has been practically acquainted from childhood, with this business in Lyons and its vicinity, and he doubts the possibility of three, or even two profitable crops per annum, of worms. He has promised us his views on this subject hereafter.

NINETEEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

Just as we were going to press, the STEAMSHIP CALDONIA arrived at Boston, and we have received by EXPRESS, our usual files of agricultural journals and magazines, up to the 4th of January.

The commercial news is considered decidedly favor-

able in all respects. Money is very abundant, and at an extreme low rate of interest. The best paper is discounted at from 2½ to 3 per cent. per annum, and we might at this time be in the enjoyment of any reasonable amount of money from Europe, had it not been for the doctrines of repudiation.

Introduction of Meat and Cattle into France.—The French Ministry propose introducing a bill into the Chambers, reducing the duties on meat and cattle. We do not find the details of this bill, and are consequently unable to say how far this will benefit American products.

Mortality of Cattle in Egypt.—Upwards of 200,000 oxen have already died of an alarming disease among cattle in Egypt, which has made draught animals so scarce, that the Pasha has been obliged to order his own horses and camels, and those of his chiefs, to be used for agricultural purposes.

The weather in England is uncommonly mild for the season, and the wheat crop looks very promising.

Markets.—Flour is dull—Tobacco steady; Cheese, Beef, and Pork are at nominal prices; but it is thought an active demand will soon take place for the two latter, as it is ascertained, now that live cattle cannot be imported from the Continent to compete with salted provisions, which will be all in favor of shipments from the United States. Hams properly smoked and cured, after the Irish fashion, it is thought will do well. Lard is held firmly, and the price is advancing.

The demand for Cotton had increased, and the sales at Liverpool from the 2d Dec. to 4th Jan. had been 122,920 bags. The culture of cotton in some parts of India had not proved as favorable as was anticipated, on account of the dryness of the climate; and notwithstanding the great crop expected from this side of the Atlantic, and the large quantity on hand, it is thought that the sales at about present rates will be quite equal to the importations.

Corn Laws.—They continue to agitate the question of the Corn Laws with great force in the manufacturing districts; but we can see nothing yet which leads us to suppose that a fixed duty will be proposed by the Ministry at the coming meeting of Parliament. In the mean while, the iniquitous gambling, sliding scale, is working badly for the corn factors, and among other victims to it, we notice Mr. Dunn, of Wakefield, who has failed for \$1,500,000.

Smithfield Cattle Show.—The papers are full of the proceedings of this splendid show. The London News contains nine large engravings of the scenes and animals there, and a medallion bust of its able and indefatigable President, Earl Spencer. It is said to have been the best show that has ever yet taken place at Smithfield, and crowds of people thronged it from morning till night, so long as it continued. Among the distinguished visitors, we notice Prince Albert—and no dandy was he there, either; but turned up the cuffs of his coat sleeves like a thorough-going regular breeder, and handled all the prize animals present except the pigs. The Prince has latterly taken strongly to farming, and is said to have got a regular practical working concern, in the vicinity of Windsor. Success we say to the royal husband of the Queen—he is a clever fellow in more ways than one, and we hope that some of our would-be-aristocratic republicans may profit by his example.

The London New Farmers' Journal we find as usual, full of able and interesting matter. Mr. Prideaux continues his contributions on manures, and Mr. Chatterly and Mr. Hall give an account of experiments which they are making with them on their example farm. One of the editors, with whom we had the pleasure of an acquaintance when in London, informed

us that he had traveled through Canada, and most of the United States; we therefore bring him as a strong witness in favor of the good quality of American provisions, which others have endeavored to cry down so lustily. In their paper of Dec. 5th, he emphatically says:

"We declare, and stake our reputation upon the averment, for we speak from personal experience, obtained in almost every State of the Union, that *finer meat* than the *American Indian-corn-fed pork* cannot be found in the world."

From the above Journal we glean some items of news, most of which we present in a condensed form to our readers.

Horticultural Expedition to China.—China has long been known to possess many rare and valuable trees, shrubs, fruits, and flowers, which have not yet found their way to Europe. From thence come our beautiful Azeleas, Cammellias, and Wistaria (Glycine) Sinenses. Taking advantage of the opening of Chinese ports by the late treaty, the Horticultural Society of London has resolved to send a person well qualified for the undertaking, to bring home all he finds worthy of introduction into England. Among the fruits there, the Pekin peach is said to weigh *two* pounds, and nothing is more melting and delicious.

Our own Government of the United States has it in contemplation to fit out an embassy on a liberal scale to China; and we hope among other important matters, that the subject of agriculture will not be forgotten. In the mean while, we shall call the attention of the officers of our merchant ships about to sail on their annual voyages, to these matters, and see what we can do in our humble private way.

A splendid silver tea-service, valued at \$500, has been presented by a large company of gentlemen to Mr. Shaw, editor of the London Farmers' Magazine, and late Secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society, for his zeal and labors in promoting the cause of agriculture.

Color of Plants, and its influence in causing Rust and Mildew.—Wheat with the outward skin of a purple color, is more liable to be affected with rust and mildew, than the varieties with yellow straw. Russia yellow top, and yellow flesh turnips, are found to be far superior to the purple or green tops.

The GARDENERS' CHRONICLE contains a full report of Dr. Playfair's Lectures on Animal Physiology. He has some new and rather startling ideas, but handles the subject with uncommon ability. We shall revert to the lectures hereafter.

EDINBURGH QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.—The December number of this journal contains nine articles devoted to agriculture, and a supplement of five more, being the Prize Essays and Transactions of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland. We have had time yet to look over those only on Water Meadows, English Agriculture, and Jersey as regards its Husbandry and Agricultural Classes.

The **FLORIST JOURNAL** has splendid engravings, colored and drawn after nature, of two dahlias. They are large and beautiful flowers. The first is of a rich purple color, and is called Sir Robert Sale, the second the Rival Yellow, and is of the color its name indicates.

The **GARDENER AND PRACTICAL FLORIST.**—In this work we find an article upon the management of Horticultural Shows, with engravings to illustrate the text of the writer, which are well worthy the attention of those who are engaged in getting up these sort of things in our own country.

THE HORSE.—Mr. Youatt is publishing a second edition, with numerous additions, of the same work which he wrote for the Society for the Diffusion of

Useful Knowledge. Part VIII. is the latest we have received.

LECTURES ON AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY, by PROF. JOHNSTONE.—We are now in receipt of Part III., No. 24, of these Lectures. This number treats almost entirely on the use of Lime as a manure, and the lecture is written with the usual ability, clearness and force of this distinguished writer.

TO THE LADIES.—We wish we could show you the Botanical Register and Paxton's Magazine of Botany, for they are full of colored engravings of the rare and beautiful flowers, which are monthly introduced into England from Australia, South America, the Indies, and other remote quarters of the world. We are sure if you could see these, that you would love the country the more—dispense with some of the gew-gaws that encumber rather than embellish you, and take at once to the study of the fair and beautiful creations so much resembling your gentle selves. We think the field of Botany more peculiarly fitted for you than for the rougher sex, and we should be pleased to see you occupy it to our entire exclusion.

LONDON FARMERS' MAGAZINE FOR JANUARY.—The first portrait is that of Thomas William Coke, late Earl of Leicester, and we will add, for a still greater title, the friend of America and the liberal and enlightened farmer. He is a noble, portly-looking man, with one of the best balanced heads we have ever seen. His eyes are large, deep and expressive; his nose prominent and slightly aquiline; and the mouth eminently handsome. A memoir accompanies the engraving, written by Cuthbert W. Johnson, Esq., author of the Farmers' Encyclopedia; but we do not find anything particularly new in it, that has not before appeared in the American papers.

The second portrait is the celebrated coach-stallion, Faulconer, that took the first prize as a roadster, at the great Yorkshire meeting at Hull, in 1841, open to all England. We recollect seeing him there at the time, and a splendid horse he is too, nearly thoroughbred, 16 hands high, and of iron grey. But we know several horses in our own country that we think at least his equal, and we are pretty certain over a trotting course, would prove themselves his superior both in speed and bottom.

We did not get hold of this number till we were just going to press, and can therefore give no synopsis of its contents. The Journal of the Royal Agr. Society we miss entirely, which we much regret, able as its articles always are; but we suppose it will soon be at hand,—and perhaps our readers may exclaim that they have a surfeit of foreign agricultural news already; and if so, we shall give them less the next time. Still, so long as Europe is in advance of us in these matters, we do not know to what source we can look for more interesting and valuable matter than we find here to enrich a few pages of every number of our Journal.

Editor's Table.

NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

Prime Facts for the Farmer, the Fruit Grower, and the Public.—This is a neat octavo pamphlet of 64 pages, treating of the slobbers in horses and cows, the slobber-grass, diseases and remedies of the plum and the peach tree, &c. &c., illustrated with several engravings. From the cursory perusal bestowed on this work, we like it, and shall give extracts hereafter from its pages. It is edited by Mr. R. Bartlett, and published by NAFIS & CORNISH, 278 Pearl street, price twenty-five cents.

THE INDICATOR: A MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG MEN AND A MISCELLANY OF SELF-IMPROVEMENT.—This is an excellent periodical of 64 pages, issued every two months, price 25 cts. per No., or \$1.50 per annum. Its title indicates its object, and from a perusal of some of the papers, we think well of them, and most cheerfully recommend the work to the young men of the country. JACOB TOWNSEND, *Editor*.

THE WESTERN FARMER AND GARDENERS' ALMANAC, for 1843. *Cincinnati: Published by Charles Foster.* This is an excellent work for the farmer, of 92 pages, neatly printed, and handsomely illustrated with a large number of engravings of animals, and scenes of rural life, designed by the editor, Mr. Foster, and engraved by Lovejoy. We do not know its price, but presume it is the same as last year, 25 cents, and very cheap at that. We recommend it to all who wish either amusement or instruction in an Almanac. One of the engravings, we notice, is a sketch of our friend and correspondent, Solon Robinson, Esq., which we recollect Mr. Foster's showing to us at Cincinnati the past winter. It conveys a pretty correct idea of the man, although it is not as well developed and good-looking as the original.

THE MUCK MANUAL FOR FARMERS. By SAMUEL L. DANA. *A second edition, with additions.* Price 62½ cts. We have received the above valuable work from our own publishers, Messrs. Saxton & Miles; and as we spoke very highly of the first edition, in the June No. of this paper, we need only add, that it has become more valuable by the later additions of the author, and its merits are now so well established, that every farmer's library must appear incomplete without it; and it is so very cheap that none can refuse to purchase, and the reading of it may put one in the way of earning as many extra dollars, perhaps, as the little work has cost him cents.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HENRICO AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We thank the editors of the Southern Planter, Messrs. Botts and Burfort, for the above pamphlet. We have looked it over with interest, and quite agree with our friends as to its ability. Virginia is a fine old State, and we like many of her doings.

WORKS OF JANE TAYLOR.—We acknowledge the receipt of the complete works of this admirable woman and gifted writer. They ought to be placed in every family in the land. They consist of her memoir and correspondence, essays, tales, and poetry, all of which are of a highly intellectual and moral cast; and we are led more particularly to notice them, because rural subjects are so frequently their theme and illustration. These volumes would be much more suitable for the District School Library than many that are placed there; and we recommend their selection for this purpose to the Superintendents throughout the State. The work is in three beautiful volumes, of nearly 500 pages each, and are sold at the low price of \$3. We should like to make some extracts, but our limits forbid. SAXTON & MILES, *Publishers*.

NATURAL HISTORY OF NEW YORK.—Three more of these superb volumes are now out, consisting of Dr. Becks Report on the Mineralogy of the State, Dr. Emmons' Geological Report of the Second, and Dr. Vanuxem's of the Third District. When we say that these Reports are written with clearness and ability; that they are accompanied with plates and maps illustrating the text whenever it was thought expedient, even to a minute degree, all can judge of their interest and value; and to the volumes themselves, we

must refer the scientific reader for a knowledge of their contents. Six vols. are now out, and they may be found at the Bookstore of Messrs. Appleton & Co., 200 Broadway.

BOOK OF THE FARM, by Henry Stephens, editor of the Edinburg Quarterly Agricultural Journal, to be completed in 2 vols. Here is another of those splendid works upon Agriculture, which the British press is continually pouring forth to interest its farmers. We are indebted to Messrs. Wiley and Putnam for a perusal of the first volume, the only one yet received. It is of royal octavo 670 pages embellished with numerous engravings, done in a superior manner, and it is pronounced the best work of the kind ever yet published. The price here is \$8 per vol., which is cheap when we consider the value of the contents, and the style in which the work is got up.

THE LADY'S ANNUAL REGISTER AND HOUSEWIFE'S ALMANAC, for 1843.—This is a pretty work for ladies, and its contents may be judged of by its title. We think, however, it would have been better adapted to its purpose, had it contained more practical matter and less of poetry and sentiment. There are 107 pages in it, with numerous engravings, price 37½ cents. T. H. Carter, *Boston*.

THE FLORAL CABINET, James Hogg, editor, published by Dayton & Newman, 199 Broadway, at Four Dollars a year in advance, or 37½ cents per No. of 16 pages, quarto, with colored engravings. Mr. Hogg is a practical Florist and Nurseryman, and the No. of the Cabinet now before us, seems to be edited with as much ability, and is got up in as beautiful style, as similar European periodicals, and has the advantage of being afforded at about half their price. New York wants a work of this kind, and we hope that she will second the enterprise of Mr. Hogg, and come forward and generously support it. The embellishments for January No., is the *Franciscea undulata* in full flower, drawn and colored after nature.

THE MAGAZINE OF HORTICULTURE AND BOTANY, edited by C. M. Hovey, of Boston, containing 40 pages, monthly, with engravings of fruits and flowers, price Three dollars a year. By the courtesy of the editor, we are favored with the January No., being the first of vol. 9 of this excellent work. For some time this has been the only periodical of the kind published in the United States, and it has been so long and favorably known, that it will scarcely need praise of ours. We observe among other articles, one on the Stone Pear, written by Mr. Ernst, of Cincinnati, Ohio; and we have read it with the more interest probably, from the fact of having often visited his fine, ample gardens and nursery, in this most beautiful of all western cities.

THE AMERICAN REVIEW AND METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE, edited by an association of gentlemen, and published every two months in octavo numbers, of 100 pages each, by SAXTON & MILES, price Three dollars per annum, payable in advance. We have read the first No. of this elegant periodical, and can assure the public that the articles are written with unusual spirit and ability; but notwithstanding all this, it could not receive a notice in this paper, till we were assured that agricultural literature will have a due share of its attention, and such as the importance and interest of the subject commands at present in Europe.

THE TURF REGISTER, containing 64 pages monthly, handsome octavo, together with the **AMERICAN RACING CALENDER,** illustrated with highly finished engravings, edited by Wm. T. Porter, and published by J. RICHARDS, corner of Broadway and Barclay street, New

York, price Five dollars per annum, payable in advance. Although no sportsman in the common acceptance of the term, we yield to none in admiration of that noble quadruped the horse, or affection for the friend of man, the dog, and love and enjoyment of all manly exercises in the open air. Of course with these predilections, the Register has always been favorite reading with us. It is the only *authentic record* of blooded stock in the United States, and is especially devoted to breeding, training, and sports of the field. It is got up in fine style, and compares favorably with similar English periodicals. The engravings for the January No. are the Hen Roost, a comical affair, and that phenomenon of racers, Fashion, with her honest clever little jockey, Joe Laird, upon her back. She is a splendid creature, showing great power and substance; but as we propose to ourselves the high gratification of soon calling upon her, in company with Mr. Porter, at the hospitable mansion of her owner, Mr. Gibbons, we shall defer further talk upon these matters till that happy period.

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES, edited and published as above. Who has not cognisance of the "*Spirit*," and a certain personage that embodies it—ycleped the "tall son of York." If any one *can be* so ignorant, we will only say, that with kindred subjects to the Turf Register, it unites all sorts of sports and amusement, and whenever we feel dull and moody, we have only to take this *down*, when it is sure to take us *up* and drive the blues beyond speaking distance. Its contents are more light and varied than the Register, and this also is superbly embellished. A portrait will soon appear in it, of Col. Johnson, of Virginia, most truly entitled the "Napoleon of the Turf," although he here and there gets a Waterloo defeat, as in the memorable instances of Eclipse and Fashion. A portrait of Fashion also, will soon appear here, on a much larger scale than that in the Turf Register, besides other things in progress, which will be announced in due time. The Spirit of the Times is a large folio sheet of 12 pages, weekly, price Ten dollars a year.

Several of our contemporaries have made their appearance in the commencement of a new volume the past month. We intended to have noticed them all in this number, but the foreign news has compelled us to forbear till the next.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received from Mr. Collins, of Hartford, Chairman of the Committee of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society, on cows, heifers, and calves, comprising classes V. VI. VII. and VIII. a manuscript copy of the report which was made on this subject, at the late annual meeting; and we must say, that it is one of the most valuable and searching documents of the kind we have ever read; and so completely harmonizes with our own views of the matters of which it treats, that we shall publish a good part of it next month, and other portions from time to time, as texts for some reforms in agricultural shows, which we propose to give for the consideration of our readers hereafter.

Mr. F. W. Stillman's letter, enclosing a sketch of Mr. Cones newly invented Dynamometer, having been left at the office of the American Institute, we did not get it till too late to insert in this No. of our paper. We have now received a letter from Mr. Cone, accompanied with a drawing explaining the Dynamometer more at length, this will appear next month. We are not the less obliged to Mr. Stillman for his prompt reply to our wishes, and only regret the letter had not been dropped into the Post Office, we should have then

got it the same day. E. Cornell, an Illinois Farmer, C. M. Gidings, John J. McCaughan, and M. W. Phillips, will appear in our next. We are also happy to say that the two first Nos. of a series of Essays on fine woolled sheep are at hand; and these will be continued monthly hereafter, till the whole subject and its bearings is fully discussed. The writer has great experience in sheep husbandry, has traveled extensively in Europe, and made his own importations. We are also to have a series of Essays on the middle woolled and mutton sheep, by one who has resided in Europe some time, and long bred the animals about which he will discourse. We can promise our readers a rare treat from these able essays. They will be accompanied by engravings illustrating the subjects. Some other communications are under advisement.

Notices of the Annual Fair of the Planter's Club, at Hancock, Georgia, and Mr. Colman's intended European Agricultural Survey were put in type, but owing to miscalculation, room was not left for them. They will appear in our next.

WE WISH ESPECIAL NOTICE TAKEN OF WHAT FOLLOWS:—

We print on the first page of every number of our paper, that **Postmasters are permitted by Law, to enclose money for Subscriptions, and order our paper Free of Postage.** And yet we are taxed more or less every day by orders without this precaution. The postage of a letter may seem a small thing to talk about, but suppose according to our present terms, a correspondent encloses two One Dollar bills in a letter, and puts it into the mail himself, expecting Three copies of our paper; the result is, perhaps, that we are taxed 25 cents for the letter and 25 cents for each bill so enclosed, making 75 cents in all, which deducted from \$2, leaves \$1 25 to the publishers, or less than 42 cents for each volume of the American Agriculturist, and perhaps a discount on the money then at that. We beg our subscribers to pay attention to this, for our postage in the aggregate is a heavy bill.

THE NEW WORLD AND OURSELVES.

We have engaged to contribute from time to time through the present year, a series of papers to the above ably conducted Family Newspaper, to be called Agricultural Tour in England. These will not be so strictly confined to the subject of agriculture as the numbers which appear in our own columns, but will take a more discursive range, and treat of all such matters as fell under our observation while abroad, which we may think likely to interest so large and general a class of readers as constitute those of the New World. We shall also insert a short summary weekly, of agricultural news, both foreign and domestic; all which cannot fail to give additional interest and value to this paper.

The New World is now published exclusively in the Royal-octavo size, than which nothing can be more convenient for binding, or to adorn one's library. Its contents are of a high moral character, and each number has a clear and well arranged digest of the news of the week, political, social, literary and miscellaneous—including all matters which are of real interest, foreign and domestic; and we can assure our readers, both in town and country, that they will find this among the *very best* family newspapers of America; and in subscribing for it, they will desire little else. It is published weekly, and contains 32 pages, double columns, Royal octavo, in clear type, on fine paper, handsomely embellished with numerous engravings; making a

superb volume of 1664 pages, at the low price of THREE Dollars a Year. Park Benjamin, editor. J. Winchester, publisher, 30 Ann street.

In addition to the lighter literature of the day, published in cheap series at the New World office as fast as received from Europe, it will follow up its editions of Leibig's Agricultural and Animal Chemistry, by reprints of all the standard agricultural works of Great Britain, together with occasional translations from the French, German, and Italian; condensed, or at full length, with notes explanatory and additions by American gentlemen, long practically and theoretically acquainted with the subjects of farming, horticulture, and stock breeding.

Our exchange papers will confer a favor upon us by noticing the above arrangement.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Transactions of the Hartford County Agricultural Society for 1842.—We are indebted to an unknown friend for an octavo pamphlet of 90 pages, containing the doings of this spirited Society. The Address before it by S. H. Huntington, Esq., is eloquent and to the point; nor are we less pleased with the Reports of the different Committees, particularly the one on Farms, which strikes us as a thorough searching document. They have gone into the whole minutiae of capital, crops, expenses, and net profits. Mr. Doolittle's farm pays 12 per cent. profit on the capital, Col. Rowe's 12 5-16, Mr. Deming's 12, Mr. Hart's 13 1/4, Mr. Thompson's 10, Mr. Alden's 13 1/4, Mr. Tudor's 12, Mr. Bartlett's, (adding 2 per cent. for improvement,) 13 1/4, and Mr. Peck's 10 1/2 per cent. Certainly, with such results as these before him, and at this time particularly, no farmer should complain.

The Reports on Cattle and Sheep show that a taste for fine stock is on the increase in this county; but of that on swine, what will Mr. Lincoln say, when he hears, under authority of a grave Committee, that "the pigs of Hartford County are far better bred, and far more moral than those of the staid and sober county of Worcester, (his own strong hold), for at the last Fair there, the festivities of the occasion were interrupted by a sanguinary duel, between two boars, and the turf on the beautiful green of Worcester was stained with hoggish gore!"

We beg leave to interpose our caveat here, and gently hint to the Hartford Committee, to be a little more careful how they report hereafter; for we have the best of authority for asserting that they are in great error; and that the aforesaid "sanguinary duel," was nothing more or less than an attempt with their tusks for razors, at a mutual shave, in order to give themselves a neater and more gentlemanly appearance on the day of the show; and that the "gory stains" were in consequence of accidentally splitting their mouths with an uncontrollable fit of laughter, and losing three teeth each, in addition, at the bare idea of the comic sententiousness which would be sure to flow from the pen of a certain nameless Governor, who has hitherto rode it rough-shod over every *Sus Aper* course in the Union, where he has happened to appear mounted upon his *cachinnatory* Pegasus.

AGRICULTURAL STATE FAIR OF LOUISIANA.—We see by the New Orleans Tropic, that this Show and Fair was held on the 14th January, at Baton Rouge. A large assembly of planters and their ladies were present, and the thing went off with increased spirit over that of last year. The Hon. Henry Clay, of Kentucky, was a guest, and gave additional interest to the meeting. We have not space to give even the names of the successful candidates for prizes, but in addition to sam-

ples of cotton, sugar, rice, horses, cattle, asses, mules, sheep, swine, goats, domestic manufactures, &c. &c., it will sound rather odd to our northern readers to hear of fruits, flowers, and vegetables, fresh gathered and exhibited in the open air in the middle of January. Col. Harney had out his splendid regiment of United States Dragoons, now stationed at Baton Rouge, and the Fair and parade were concluded by a brilliant fête and ball in the evening, at which say the whole seven of the editorial corps present, the ladies were particularly lovely and agreeable. We dare say, for why should they not be on so exhilarating an occasion as an Agricultural Fair and Show.

POSTAGE.—We have received the special Report of the Post-Master General, as also that of Mr. Merrick, Chairman of the Committee on Post-Roads and the Post-Office in the U. S. Senate; and we must confess that we are greatly chagrined and disappointed at the trifling reduction in the rates which are proposed in the first report. We pronounce the present laws of the Post-Office Department as anti-social, anti-democratic, anti-republican—an extortion upon the farmer, and out of all reason compared with the present prices of his produce. Twenty-five cents is the price of a bushel of wheat in the interior of the west, of 2 1/2 bushels of corn, of 20 lbs. of pork, or of a quarter of a ton of hay; and we have just paid the same amount for the transportation of two letters, weighing one ounce each, from New Orleans, as we have per bale (weighing nearly 500 lbs.) of a lot of cotton—viz. Two Dollars. This also is the price at which we offer THREE vols. of the American Agriculturist, containing 1152 pages, double columns, of imperial octavo, with fine type and paper, and embellished with numerous engravings!

The rates now proposed by the Post-Master General, is on all single letters sent by the mail any distance not over 30 miles, - - - - - 5 cts.

Over 30 to 100 miles, - - - - - 10 "

" 100 " 220 " - - - - - 15 "

" 220 " 400 " - - - - - 20 "

" 400 " - - - - - 25 "

This strikes us as a *Reform* with a vengeance.

The rates of Postage which we would propose, should be 5 cents per ounce for all letters 100 miles and under, 10 " " " over 100 miles and under 500, 15 " " " over 500 miles.

We are confident at these rates, and putting an end to the franking privilege, that the revenue would be increased rather than diminished, after the first year; and at any rate such a reform as we propose will promote the dissemination of knowledge among us, tend to enlighten and elevate the character of the Republic, and take away the odious exclusiveness that now attaches itself to this Department, and renders it so burdensome to the people. In aristocratic England, the postage formerly was twice what it is in the United States—now it is only one penny on letters transported to and from the remotest bounds of the United Kingdom.

CITY MANURES.—The Corporation has let the cleaning of the streets of this city for five years, at the rate of \$64,500 per annum. Other parties offered to take the contract for much less than this, and one proposal was as low even as \$24,935; but as the cleaning of the streets had cost, on an average, upwards of \$106,000 per annum for the last three years, the Corporation considered these very low offers as not made in good faith, and that the parties could not carry them into effect, and so rejected their propositions. They have entered their protest in the matter, and the refusal of giving the contract to the lowest bidder, has caused considerable dissatisfaction in certain quarters.

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

Prices Current in New-York, December 31, 1842.

ASHES, Pots, per 100 lb.	\$ 5 50	to	—
Pearls, do.	6 56	..	—
BEESWAX, Yellow, per lb.	29	..	29½
COTTON, Louisiana, do.	5½	..	9½
Upland, do.	5	..	8½
Florida, do.	5	..	9
Alabama, do.	5½	..	9½
FEATHERS, American, live, per lb.	20	..	25
FLAX, American, per lb.	7	..	7½
FLOUR, Northern and Western, via Erie Canal, per bbl.	4 37	..	4 50
do, via N. Orleans,	4 12	..	4 37
Southern, per bbl.	4 12	..	4 25
RYE, per bbl.	3 00	..	3 25
MEAL, Corn, per bbl.	2 50	..	2 75
do, per hhd.	12 25	..	13 00
WHEAT, Western, per bushel,	80	..	87
Southern, do.	70	..	80
RYE, Northern, per bushel,	54	..	56
CORN, do.	50	..	54
Southern, do.	48	..	50
BARLEY, per bushel,	48	..	50
OATS, Northern, per bushel,	31	..	32
Southern, do.	23	..	24
PEAS, Field, do.	86	..	1 15
BEANS, White, per bushel,	1 21	..	1 43
CLOVER SEED, per lb.	6	..	6½
TIMOTHY SEED, per tierce of 7 bu.	10 00	..	10 50
FLAX SEED, rough, do. do.	8 50	..	9 00
clean, do. do.	—	..	—
RICE, per 100 lb.	2 25	..	3 00
HEMP, Russia, per ton,	200 00	..	—
American, water rotted do.	—	..	—
HOPS, first sort, per lb.	9	..	11
LEAD, Pig, per lb.	3½	..	3½
Sheet and Bar, per lb.	4½	..	5
OIL, Linseed, American, per gal.	75	..	80
PLASTER OF PARIS, first quality, per ton, unground do.	2 25	..	2 75
BEEF Mess, per bbl.	6 12	..	6 75
Prime, do.	3 00	..	4 00
Cargo, do.	1 75	..	2 00
PORK, Mess, do.	7 50	..	9 50
Prime, do.	5 00	..	6 50
LARD, per lb.	6½	..	7½
BUTTER, best Table, per lb.	13	..	15
Western, good, per lb.	10	..	13
Shipping, do.	6	..	8
CHEESE, in boxes and casks, per lb.	5	..	6½
HAMS, Smoked, per lb.	7	..	9
Pickled, do.	5½	..	5½
Shoulders, smoked,	—	..	—
BEEF, Smoked, do.	6	..	7½
SALT, Liverpool, ground, sack	—	..	1 47
do, fine, do.	1 62½	..	1 76
SUGAR, New Orleans, per lb.	3	..	5
TOBACCO, Virginia, do.	3	..	5
Kentucky, do.	2½	..	5
TALLOW, American, do.	7½	..	7½
WOOL, American Saxony fleece, per lb.	32	..	37½
Full blood Merino do. do.	28	..	30
Half to three-fourths do. do.	24	..	26
Native to half do. do.	18	..	22
SHEEP PELTS, each,	—	..	—
HAY, per 100lb.	47	..	52
POTATOES, new, per bushel,	25	..	—
EGGS, per 100,	1 00	..	—

New York Cattle Market—Jan. 30.

At Market, 1050 Beef Cattle, (400 from Penn.), 50 Cows and Calves, and 1400 Sheep.

PRICES.—Beef Cattle have sold at a less price than last week's quotations, and we quote at \$3 50 a 4 50, for ordinary to fair, to \$5 a 6 for prime. Market dull and 300 unsold.

COWS AND CALVES.—Prices range very wide, from \$16 to 36, with occasional sales at \$35. 10 unsold.

SHEEP and LAMBS.—All at market but 100 taken at \$1 25 a 4, with a few lots as high as 4 50.

Hay.—Prices rule very low, and 56 cents is the top of the market. Prices range from 42 to 56 cts, per cwt.

REMARKS.—Since the late news from Europe, a large and active business has been done in cotton, but in consequence of freights rising, a trifling reduction of one-eighth has been submitted to in a few instances by holders. In Provisions generally few sales are effected at this present moment; holders seem to be waiting further advices from abroad, confident that there must be a slight rise. Flour and grain are dull in the extreme, and the few sales lately made were a little below last month's quotations.

MONEY is very abundant, and Specie still accumulating in our Banks.—Stocks have continued gradually to advance. The balance of the U. S. six per cent loan \$5,700,000 has been taken in this city since the 1st of Jan., and it is supposed that it will be above par within six months. Dew Rotted Hemp is quoted in Louisville,

Ky. at \$3 to 3 50 per cwt. Water Rotted \$3 to \$7 according to quality. 187,000 hogs had been killed at Cincinnati up to the 20th Jan. But notwithstanding this great number, the market for pork remained firm at from \$1 75 to 2 1½ per 100 lbs.

The quantity of India Cotton imported into Liverpool in 1840, was 109,000; in 1841, 162,000; and in 1842, 169,800 bales.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.—Our edition of the January No. of the American Agriculturist is entirely exhausted; but as the work is Stereotyped, we shall put a second edition to press next week, so that if our subscribers are not as promptly served as they anticipated, they will not be obliged to wait long.

We shall print double the usual number of copies for February, and trust that the desire for our paper among our friends will enable us to go on doubling, till we have a circulation of TWENTY THOUSAND. Great improvements are in progress.

TERMS.—TEN cents for single numbers—FIFTY cents for Six—and ONE Dollar for any Twelve numbers, or a Volume Complete. Three copies for Two Dollars.

REMIT through POSTMASTERS, as the Law allows.

CHARLES STARR, JR.,

MENDHAM, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Will be prepared, the coming Spring, to execute orders for thorough bred Berkshire Pigs, from the imported boar Hagbourn, and a superior boar of Windsor Castle family, and fifteen choice sows, lately procured from A. B. Allen, of Buffalo, New York.

Pigs from this superior stock, from 2 to 3 months old, will be delivered, well caged on shipboard, at New York, for \$25 to \$30 per pair. Feed furnished when desired at \$3 per barrel.

Persons desiring either pigs or full grown animals, can be supplied with all the advantages of Mr. Allen's stock at Buffalo, without incurring the risk and cost of canal transportation—the advertiser's residence being but half a day's journey from New York.

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